DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 395 891 SO 026 450

AUTHOR	Parisi, Lynn, Ed.
TITLE	A Look at Japanese Culture through the Family: A Case Study Activity.
INSTITUTION	Social Science Education Consortium, Inc., Boulder, Colo.
SPONS AGENCY	United States-Japan Foundation.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-89994-349-7
PUB DATE	88
NOTE	86p.; Project developed by the Rocky Mountain Region Japan Project 1988 Model District Teams.
AVAILABLE FROM	Social Science Education Consortium Publications, 855 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Asian Studies; Case Studies; *Cross Cultural Studies; Culture; Ethnic Groups; *Family History; Folk Culture; Foreign Countries; Global Education; Japanese Culture; *Multicultural Education; Secondary Education; Social Studies; *World History
IDENTIFIERS	Japan

ABSTRACT

This activity provides students with case studies of family life in Japan for them to make hypotheses about the traditions, social institutions, and values of the Japanese people. The case studies were written by teachers who spend 1- and 2-day homestays with both rural and urban families during a 3-week study tour to Japan in 1988. The case studies have been edited to omit personal opinions and conclusions of the writers and expose students to different styles of reporting data. The student objectives are to: (1) categorize data about contemporary Japanese society and make hypotheses based on the data; (2) identify ways in which Japanese families have blended aspects of traditional and contemporary culture; (3) cite examples that illustrate both diversity and homogeneity among families in Japan; (4) recognize interconnections between Japanese society and other world cultures; and (5) analyze and evaluate source material. (EH)

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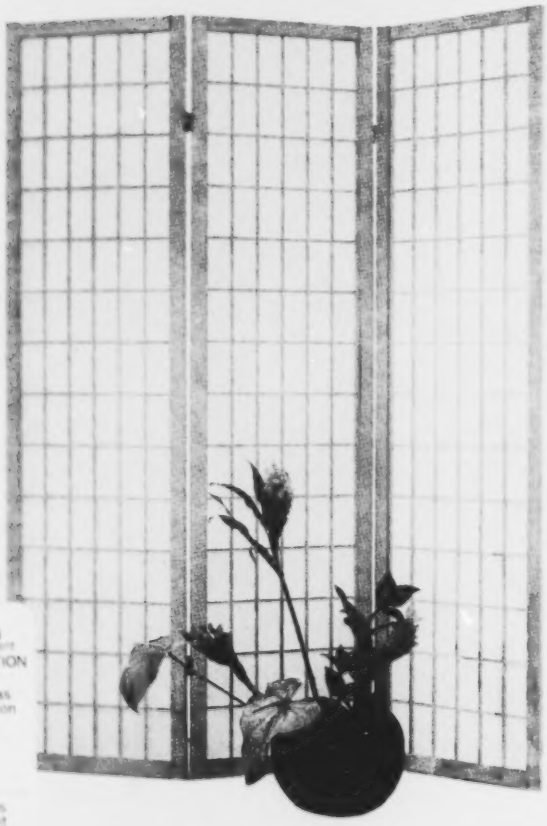
A LOOK AT JAPANESE CULTURE THROUGH THE FAMILY

A Case Study Activity

Developed by the
Rocky Mountain Region Japan Project
1988 Model District Teams

Edited by Lynn Parisi



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ORDERING INFORMATION

This publication is available from:

SSEC Publications
855 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302

ISBN 0-89994-349-7

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Thanks to Sylvia Thomas for typing; Laurel Singleton for copy editing; and Cindy Cook for materials production.

The Rocky Mountain Region Japan Project is funded by the United States-Japan Foundation and conducted by the Social Science Education Consortium. Jacquelyn Johnson and Lynn Parisi, Co-Directors

A LOOK AT JAPANESE CULTURE THROUGH THE FAMILY

Background:

In this activity, students use case studies of family life in Japan to make hypotheses about the traditions, social institutions, and values of the Japanese people. The case studies provided in this lesson were written by teachers who spent one- and two-day homestays with both rural and urban families during a three-week study tour to Japan in 1988. Although the case studies have been edited to omit personal opinions and conclusions of the writers, the original format used by each writer has been retained. In this way, student readers are exposed to different styles of reporting data.

This activity has been adapted by RMRJP from the lesson, "Looking at Culture Through the Family: Korea, A Case Study," developed by Pat McMillan and Jim Vinson, members of the California International Studies Project (CISP), and Tuckie Yirchott, CISP Study Tour Coordinator, Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, Stanford University.

Objectives:

At the completion of this activity, students will be able to:

- categorize data about contemporary Japanese society and make hypotheses based on the data;
- identify ways in which Japanese families have blended aspects of traditional and contemporary culture;
- city examples that illustrate both diversity and homogeneity among families in Japan;
- recognize interconnections between Japanese society and other world cultures;
- analyze and evaluate source material.

Materials: Family case studies; slides of family life in Japan (optional); data collection sheets; butcher paper with each of the data categories written at the top; markers; masking tape.

Grade Level: The activity is designed for grades 7-12 but may be easily adapted for use in the lower grades.

Teaching Time: 1-2 class periods

Procedure:

1. Introduce the activity by asking students to discuss the following questions: How do you learn about other societies? (Television, movies, textbooks, magazines) What clues about a culture might you pick up by living with a family for a short time?

2. (Optional) Show slides of Japanese family situations that will provide a context for the case studies. This step provides the opportunity to enrich the lesson with your personal experiences gained through travel-study.

Select slides that show specific aspects of home, social roles, economic situations, aesthetics, etc. Ask students to look for clues that might help them determine aspects of the society. For ex-

ample, are people wearing traditional or contemporary clothing; is there a variety of furnishings in the house, etc.

3. Divide the class into groups of two or three and distribute one family case study to each group. Also give each group a "Data Collection Sheet."

4. Instruct groups to read their case studies carefully and then to record data about their assigned family on the "Data Collection Sheet." Caution students that not all family case studies will include data on all aspects of culture.

5. When students have finished recording information in their small groups, ask each group to send one or two scribes to record their group's findings for each category on the master charts you have posted around the room.

6. Discuss group findings as a class. Possible questions to guide discussion are:

- What similarities were there across different families? What differences? What data did students find to determine homogeneity or diversity among Japanese families? (Generations of family members living together,sex roles, dress, income level, education, etc.)
- Did students find evidence of influence or exchange of ideas, institutions, or values between Japan and other cultures?
- What similarities or differences did students perceive between the Japanese family they studied and their own family? Between Japanese culture and American culture as a whole?

7. Based on their findings, ask students to make tentative generalizations about Japanese society. List these on the chalkboard or butcher paper. When students have generated a list, ask them to turn their attention to an analysis of the process by which they collected data and formed generalization. Questions to guide discussion are:

- What are the limitations on making generalizations from this data? What questions should students be asking to ascertain the credibility of the data? (Who wrote the case studies? How long did they stay in the homes?)
- Students should keep in mind that a visitor's account represents only one perspective on a culture. The visitor's information, in turn, is filtered through his/her host family's eyes and the experiences they provide, etc.
- Are there valid clues that one can use to make generalizations about a society after visiting one or two families for just a few days? What more could be gained by a stay of two weeks?

8. To close the activity, ask students how they can test the generalizations they have made about Japanese culture. As a result of the lesson, what further questions do students have about this society?

9. (Optional) For students using a textbook to study Japan, ask what different information they obtained about Japanese society from reading these case studies than from reading their textbook.

DATA COLLECTION SHEET

FAMILY CASE STUDY #____

Education	History/ Geography	Interaction with Other Cultures	Arts and Aesthetics	Economics	Beliefs and Values	Politics	Social Roles

Case Study #1

The Hiratsuku family includes daughter, Yumi, age 29; father, Shizeo; mother, Tomie; dog, Lili. Yumi, my hostess, is employed at the Prefectural Office in their rural prefecture. She is the only child of the Hiratsukas and lives with her parents, since she is single. Her father and mother are both retired. Before retiring, Mr. Hiratsuka was a civil servant in the city government of a nearby suburb and Mrs. Hiratsuka was a public health nurse.

The family resides in a comfortable home 30 minutes away from the prefectural capital. The first floor has four spacious rooms, plus the toilet and bath. Yumi has her own room upstairs. There is a Western-style living room that has a low table at which most meals are eaten while watching TV. Along one side of the room is a china cabinet in which the father's kokeshi doll collection is displayed.

Father is quite friendly with several of the old craftsmen in the area, and we had the pleasure of visiting them on Sunday afternoon. The father maintains a beautiful garden with traditional styles strictly adhered to. Mother has a few flower boxes she carefully tends.

Outside of gardening, the parents appear to spend a great deal of time watching TV. They are in their seventies, and I suppose this is not unusual. Yumi told me that her father is very traditional Japanese with the exception of watching TV during meals. He bathes before dinner (6:30 p.m. on the dot) and eats his meals while dressed in his yukata – although the rest of the family wear street clothes. Father very much likes green tea and constantly is nursing a cup just like we would a mug of coffee.

Mother had very little to say to father while I was there. She spoke to her daughter, and then Yumi spoke to her father. Then it reversed itself. Father assisted mother in setting the table and clearing the table. I asked Yumi if these were tasks she usually performed, and she replied that mother didn't want her in the kitchen.

One very touching example of the care that mother takes of her family was on Monday morning. Before breakfast, mother was out wiping off the dew from Yumi's car. This family is a two-car family with sufficient room to park both vehicles in the carport area.

Case Study by Nancy Core, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools

The Hiratsuka family values education greatly. During high school Yumi traveled to Europe. She passed the examination to enter Sophia University in Tokyo. That is the only time she has lived away from her home. She said it was very difficult to live in an apartment and be away from her parents.

Yumi's mother Tomie is not in good health and as we visited several temples and shrines, she wafted great quantities of incense on her. Incense is supposed to cure illness. Father and mother take religion very seriously, and I would be interested to know if their involvement has anything to do with their age and physical condition. I got the impression that temples were not as important when Yumi was younger, since they had to coach her as to what to do. She said her parents make many shrine visits now that they are retired.

Case Study #2

Family Background: The Miura family consists of Mr. Miura; his wife, Terako; Mr. Miura's mother and father; and Aki, a 10-year-old daughter.

Mr. Miura is 40 and is a Yokohama policeman. He studies kendo, a traditional martial art, and has won several competitions. He learned English many years ago when he attended university, and it was enough so that we could discuss things in fairly general terms. He possesses a joie de vivre and definitely enjoys his life. He is very jovial and humorous.

Terako, his wife, is 38 and has been teaching sixth grade for five years. She stayed home to care for their daughter, Aki, until she was 5. She works long days, usually 12 hours, and carries home a lot of papers to be corrected at night, but she loves her job.

The paternal grandmother, who is near 70, is in excellent health and does a great deal of the cooking, cleaning, and at-home educating of her granddaughter. She spoke no English, but didn't have any difficulty communicating with me. She is a very kind lady, very petite, very energetic, and very people-oriented.

The paternal grandfather is 75 years old. When I arrived on Sunday, he was out hiking and writing haiku, which he frequently does, in addition to painting. When he arrived home, I felt that a very important person had joined us. He is a retired district prosecutor and has high status in the community. He had received medals and honors, and these were framed and displayed in prominent places in the house.

He enjoyed drinking whiskey in the evening and sat watching TV after dinner for several hours. In the morning, at 6:00 a.m., he went to the garden (which he designed 20 years ago) and did exercises to the accompaniment of a radio program. He doted on his granddaughter – you could see she was the apple of his eye. I think he enjoyed interacting with me and was very friendly.

Aki, who is 10, is a very athletic-looking girl who wasn't particularly shy. She spoke no English, but warmed up to me immediately. We enjoyed each other's company by looking at photos, playing with her bird, doing origami; she performed on the piano. She has studied the piano for five years and played loudly! Aki also holds a special, nurtured position in the family. She has an extensive stuffed animal collection and has been to Tokyo Disneyland, quite a distance away. The parents and grandparents spend a lot of time with her.

Case Study by Deborah McAlister, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District

The Miura family owns their house and garden. The house is two stories and has several tatami rooms on the first floor, two bedrooms upstairs, a bath, kitchen, Western-style "sitting room," and a formal Japanese garden. The family is fairly affluent, as evidenced by two cars, a piano, numerous pieces of carved furniture, origami art, and many expensive foods (grapes), which I don't feel were a special treat for my visit.

Activities: Aki and her parents and I went to a famous temple set high on the mountainside. Together we hiked up the 1,000 steps to the top of the mountain. There were numerous shrines and temples and a fabulous view of the valley.

After that we had lunch in a soba restaurant where you were served noodles in an artificial waterfall. Mr. Miura thought that was great fun! (So did I.) Then we visited a kokeshi-doll maker's shop and were able to paint our own kokeshi. Mr. Miura got a kick out of that.

The family wanted to take me to a grocery store, which they did, and delighted in pointing out all the different things in the store. They were watching me carefully for any ideas as to what I ate and purchased it if they thought I'd like it.

The next stop was at a shop that sold crafts indigenous to the area; Mr. and Mrs. Miura told me they wanted to buy a present for me (which they did) and a present for my husband! Very generous people!

I bought the family ice cream and then we went home. Mrs. Miura and her mother-in-law prepared dinner, and Aki, her father, and I did origami. Dinner was delicious! We had a large electric grill on the table. Mrs. Miura and her mother-in-law cooked beef, sausages, pork, chicken, shrimp, crab, and vegetables on the grill, and there was also salad, rice, pickles, tofu, and fresh melon.

That evening, Mrs. Miura, Aki, and I all bathed together, with Mrs. Miura showing me how to use a Japanese bath. Very relaxing. My bedroom was a large traditional tatami room with a tokonoma. This room was probably the grandparents' sleeping room, which they vacated for me.

Case Study #3

Family members: Hisakia Toda, mother, 41 years old
Tomoka Toda, daughter, 19 years old, college
Hiroka Toda, daughter, 15 years old, high school
Emika Toda, daughter, 14 years old, jr./sr. high school
Mr. Toda died seven years ago at age 37.

City: Yokohama

Mrs. Toda picked me up at the hotel and drove me straight to her house. The drive took around 45 minutes and wound around the city before climbing up a hill. Her house sat at the edge of a hill and had a generous yard. The yard had several large trees, a small storage shed, and small flower pots and gardens where flowers could be grown. There was a garage, and the house was located at the top of several stairs.

The interior of the house was very nice. Mrs. Toda told me it was 15 years old, but it didn't look it. She showed me to my room on the first floor, which turned out to be two rooms. One was the study with a desk, telephone, etc., and a lot of books. The other room was the bedroom and had a large dresser and mirror. It also contained a tokonoma and a shinto shrine. Both rooms were traditional Japanese-style with tatami mats, sliding doors made from paper, and sliding windows with paper shades.

Also on the first floor were a living room, kitchen, bath, and toilet room. The living room had Western-style furniture and a bare, polished floor. It contained a piano, two small couches, stereo equipment, contemporary Western-style pictures, and a TV, as well as a beautiful contemporary china closet. The kitchen held several small electric appliances. The cupboards were full of an assortment of dishes. The house had a modern, Japanese-style bathroom, with a ceramic tub, a small wash stool, a faucet set low, and buckets for rinsing before getting into the tub. The toilet was in its own room, separate from the bathroom. Mrs. Toda did not take me upstairs; when I inquired about it, she said, "It's a mess and so dirty." Somehow I doubt that, because the part of the house I saw was super clean.

After a refreshing cool drink and meeting the daughters as they came home from college and school, it was time for dinner. Dinner was a beef stew with large chunks of beef and several kinds of vegetables. When the kitchen was cleaned up, we sat and talked about family and school and Japan and the United States. Bedtime for me was a hot bath and sleeping on a futon.

Case Study by Donna Burr, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

The morning was quiet, and for a long time I was the only person in the house awake. After a typical Japanese breakfast of rice, fish, pickles, soup, and tomatoes, Mrs. Toda, the two youngest girls, and I set out to visit a park in the center of the city. It was large and had several old and restored buildings from Japan's history. I saw an old farmhouse built 100-200 years ago, a four-storied pagoda built in 1457, and other homes. We were there several hours.

At home after lunch, I had a chance to visit with the daughters while Mrs. Toda made preparations for the evening. She had invited friends over for dinner, so was busy cooking all types of Japanese food. The friends arrived—a man, wife, and 12-year-old son. An Australian student who was staying with them came later. Dinner was a combination of different types and styles of Japanese food, including large trays of raw fish on beds of rice, miso soup, two kinds of bread, freshly sliced vegetables, followed by sake and beer. The man friend was quite informed about some parts of the United States and had visited several times on business. The wife was full of questions, including many on political and economic topics. The Australian was quiet but asked and answered questions. Bedtime came around 10:30.

The next morning, Sunday, was a day of leisure for the family. A casual but good breakfast of fried eggs with vegetables, rice, coffee, and toast was followed by more talk.

Mrs. Toda told me her husband had owned his own business but died at age 37, which was seven years ago. He worked long hours and seldom was home. According to her account, he worked himself to death at a very early age. Mrs. Toda and her daughters live on Mr. Toda's insurance money and assistance from her family. The girls go to a private Christian school, which costs extra money, as do the girls' dancing and music lessons. Mrs. Toda worked until a year ago, when health problems forced her to quit. Now she is studying English and three days a week goes to psychology class in Tokyo. She is a petite and attractive woman, and the girls are all good-looking and well-mannered.

The whole family asked many questions about my family, home, city, etc. They were very interested in the pictures I showed them of the Navajo Indians, their crafts and homes. We discussed land values, food and clothing prices, and other things along that same line.

The family had a dog they kept in the yard. After every meal, one of the girls did the dishes and cleaned the kitchen. Each girl gook a turn.

The family owned a television set, but it was never turned on during my stay. The phone rang only once, for the college-age girl. They family played Western-

type and classical music but never loud. I was amazed the house was so quiet with three teenage girls living there. Each girl said she wanted to visit the U.S.

When it was time to leave, all the girls came to the station to tell me good-by. I was touched because they could have stayed home and relaxed.

Case Study #4

The Suzuki family of Yokohama consists of Kiyoshi, the father; Kimie, the mother; and Yoko, a 10-year-old girl. Mr. Suzuki is 40; Mrs. Suzuki, 39. The family lives in a three-bedroom condo, which they own. It is in a five-story building that is fairly modern—built in the last eight to ten years.

Mr. Suzuki is an architect and has worked for the same firm for 17 years. He works officially five days a week, but on the Saturday I was there, he worked 12 hours unofficially. He has good benefits with his job, such as medical and dental coverage and bonuses. During the week, he is too tired to help with any cleaning or meal preparation, but his wife told me that they share the cleaning duties on Sunday.

Kimie does not work outside the home, but she keeps very busy at home. Meal preparation consumes a lot of her time. She is very concerned with feeding her family only natural foods with no artificial ingredients, so she cooks from scratch. She doesn't use any artificial ingredients or packaged mixes. The family belongs to a food co-op where none of the food has artificial ingredients. Many of the meals she prepares are traditional Japanese meals, but she does enjoy Chinese cooking. She feeds her family meat one day and fish the next.

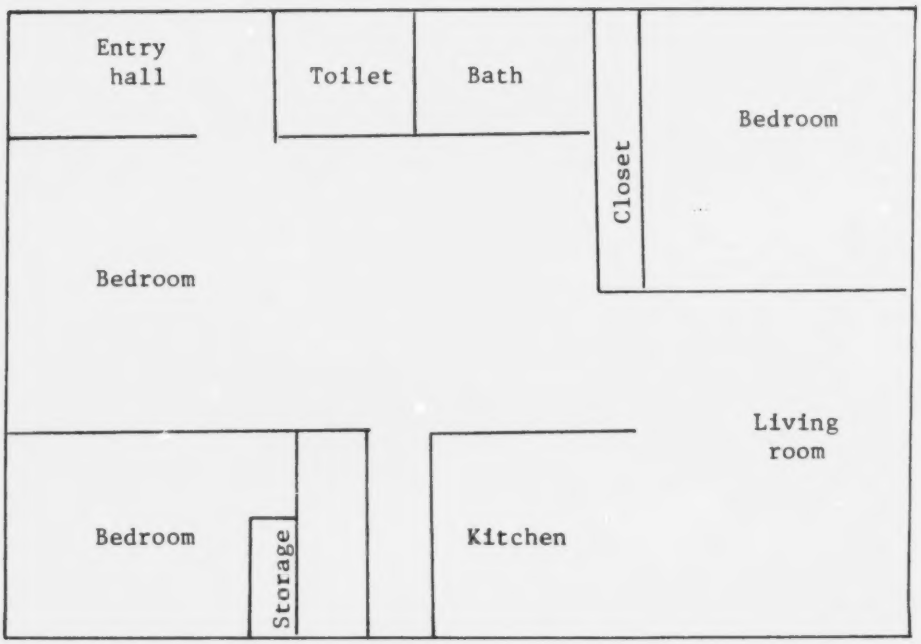
Kimie drops everything when her husband arrives home, and begins to prepare dinner for him. They show no affection towards each other and talk very little, but they appear to share the silence contentedly. Kimie told me that she was 18 when they married and that it was an arranged betrothal. She said she had turned down many young men before meeting Kiyoshi and chose him because she felt comfortable with him. They waited over a year to marry, and during this time they fell in love. Instead of a traditional expensive Japanese wedding, the two of them flew to Hawaii and were married there.

They have a life-long dream to own their own home. When I asked if they could buy one soon, she said they could and showed me homes under construction nearby. They would finance a house for 25 years. She seems thrifty when it comes to clothing, dining out, entertainment, and some home furnishing. But you can see that where their priorities are, they are willing to spend money. Their 10-year-old daughter Yoko has studied piano for six years, and she has her own piano in her room. Yoko also attends juku to study the abacus twice a week. And there are several handsome pieces of furniture that are obviously expensive. Books abound, and money is spent on classes for Kimie.

Case Study by Deborah McAlister, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District, Fort Collins.

To earn extra income, Kimie is teaching the Roman (Western) alphabet to junior high students twice a week in her home. The family does many things like traditional Japanese families, but there is evidence of Western thinking. To name a few: (1) their daughter sleeps on a bed not on a futon; (2) she finds the tea ceremony boring and her legs fall asleep; (3) there is no tokonoma with a scroll and ikebana in the home, although there is room; (4) Mr. Suzuki helps with housework; and (5) Kimie made decisions without much hinting or hesitating.

FLOOR PLAN OF SUZUKI FAMILY



Case Study #5

The Moriya family consists of Mr. Kazuo Moriya, his wife Toma, and two sons. The family lives in the capital city of a rural prefecture. Kazuo Moriya is a college graduate employed as an English teacher at a junior high school in the city. He has studied English for a month at a university in New York and would like to study more English. His wife Toma is a nurse and teaches nursing to students at a local hospital. Their oldest son is a second-year student at a university in Tokyo. Their youngest son is in his second year of high school and would like to go to a university in the United States. Both parents value education and have instilled that value in their children.

The family has a car that is just about a year old. When the car was bought, it was taken to a shrine to be blessed. Mr. Moriya drives with white gloves and takes his shoes off when he drives. The youngest son rides his bike to school. I think the family has a second car, as I saw another car parked out front.

The Moriya home is eight years old and built next to the old family home. Traditionally Japanese in style, the house is a single-family, one-story dwelling. As you enter, there is a small entryway where shoes are stored. Down the hallway to the right is Mr. Moriya's study, where the family's treasures and artifacts (doll collection, pictures, books) are displayed. The study also contains a TV. On the left side of the hallway is a toilet room with Japanese-style floor toilets. On the left side, there is a cubicle for men; on the right side, a cubicle with a door to close was for women. Further down the hall on the right is a tatami mat room where the family serves their guests. Opposite this room and next to the toilet room are the wash room and bath area, each separated from the other. At the end of the hall is the kitchen. It is a small room with open cupboards to store dishes and food. It contains a dishwasher, small stove, microwave oven, refrigerator, table, and chairs. There is also a small storage space built into the floor with a lift-type cover to store food—a miniature pantry in the floor.

To the right of the kitchen is a second tatami-mat room. It is used as the family TV room and as Toma's linen storage area. This room is where the youngest son went to watch TV. Going straight ahead from the kitchen was another tatami-mat room, which has a tokonoma and a very fancy and intricate built-in Buddhist altar. The altar features pictures of Haruo's father and grandparents. The entire family prays here briefly everyday, as they are Buddhists. Fresh flowers, fruits, and other food are placed there also so that the dead will have something to eat.

Case Study by Jolleen Myers, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

During my day with the family, we had mostly Japanese foods. Lunch, at a restaurant, was hot soba noodles. When I arrived at the home, I was served green tea, cookies, and a "jelly" made by the grandmother. The evening meal consisted of sukiyaki, miso (bean-paste) soup, nigiri-zushi (hand-formed sushi), a vegetable-egg custard called chawanmushi, and soba. Breakfast consisted of rolls, milk, fruit, and leftovers from the night before. I was also given a mineral-vitamin drink that restores energy. Haruo's mother did most of the cooking.

Haruo is the eldest son in his family, and therefore his mother lives with his family as is the Japanese custom. He is a junior high school teacher, values education, and practices the Buddhist religion. Toma, in addition to being a wife and mother, is a nurse. She also teaches nursing to students in a hospital. She would like to quit work because of health reasons but cannot because, as Haruo said, it takes two working to make a living. The grandmother takes care of the house and has the meals ready when Toma and Haruo and their younger son arrive home in the evening.

The relationship with the grandmother is one of duty, but as the father stated it is *not good* to have the grandmother living with them. The mother helps the grandmother with the meals. The eldest son was away at college in Tokyo; the youngest son was shy and didn't say much at all. There were no outward signs of affection among family members, but through talk and actions one could tell they respect each other. The father is concerned about the mother's health and said it would be good if she could retire from her job as a nurse, so the father is concerned about his wife.

The Moriya family spends leisure time together on weekends. Often in the winter they go to a nearby resort provided for city teachers or to the hot springs bath in the nearby mountains. The family watches TV together and listens to music. They especially enjoy movies and songs from American musicals, such as "Oklahoma." Occasionally, the family eats out.

Case Study #6

The family consists of Mr. Inoue, Mrs. Inoue, and two children, a girl and a boy. The paternal grandmother also lives with the family.

Mr. Inoue is a university graduate and works for a space engineering company. He has been to the United States in 1978 and in 1988. This last time his company sent him to NASA in Virginia. Mrs. Inoue identified herself as an "education mama." She also teaches English to young adults in her home. The daughter, Misa, is in the fifth grade and is an avid reader. She hopes to become a writer of children's books. She plays the piano and goes to juku (cram school) about three times a week. Arita is in the fourth grade. He is especially interested in fishing and wants to be a fisherman when he grows up. He is in a kendo club that meets several times a week after school. He also attends a juku (cram school).

The family has one car, which they have just purchased. Mr. Inoue explained that in Japan the older a car, the more taxes you pay. Mr. Inoue also owns a moped, which he rides to the train/subway station. The children have bicycles, which they ride to their activities. The children walk to school in neighborhood groups for safety purposes, with the older child leading the group, the next eldest in the back, and all the younger ones in the middle.

The Inoue home is a single-family dwelling with two stories. On the first floor is the kitchen and front room/dining room. The latter is a traditional tatami room with a tokonoma. This room also held a chest especially made to store Mrs. Inoue's kimonos. There is also a pantry stored beneath a trap door in the floor of the kitchen. The first floor also has a toilet, a washroom, and a small bathroom. Upstairs are two bedrooms, where the two children sleep in bunkbeds and the parents sleep in single beds. The home is small and compact.

Meals at the Inoue house are both Japanese and Western; eating utensils are chopsticks or silverware, depending on the meal. For supper we had a Japanese supper with soup, salad, batter-fried vegetables, rice, tea, and cherries for dessert. Mr. Inoue arrive home late, after we had eaten. For breakfast we had an over-easy egg, salad, toast, and tea. For lunch we had Japanese cold noodles, shrimp, chicken, salad, and tea. Supper on the second night was sukiyaki, which consisted of beef, vegetables, Japanese onions, and noodles. We also had rice, tea, and sour plums. For breakfast again we had sausage, ham, one over-easy egg,

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Case Study by Jolleen Myers, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

toast, tea, and oranges. Both chopsticks and Western eating utensils were used. At lunch, plum juice, which was delicious, was served. Coffee was also served at supper and lunch.

Mr. Inoue is a successful professional. He works in an office for a space technology company. He leaves before seven in the morning and returns home around 10:00-10:30 in the evening. When he was home, he did help do things around the kitchen. When he has time, he also does a little gardening, watches TV and listens to music.

The majority of all household responsibilities are Mrs. Inoue's. Towards her children, Mrs. Inoue's role seemed to be that of a typical "mama." She is very concerned about her children's education. The children, both in elementary school, are very involved in clubs and juku after school. They arrive home late in the afternoon. The children were well behaved, but when the boy stood on the chairs or on the couch, it was not perceived as incorrect behavior by the parents. It seemed to me that Japanese children are not corrected for little things they do that would be considered misbehavior in American children. It seems the children don't mind their father being away as much as he is, for it was stated that when the father is home, the son and he argue.

The family does go to the Yokohama beach and to places where they can fish when time permits such things. Shopping is done at a department store or the neighborhood shops. It is usually done once a day.

The Inoues live in a suburb of Yokohama. Mrs. Inoue has a very dear and close neighborhood friend whose children also go to school with her children. Their concept of us is that Americans invent or initiate an idea and then the Japanese improve upon the idea.

Case Study #7

Family members:

Kenro Ariji, father, 51 years old, high school science teacher
Takako Ariji, mother, elementary principal
Yumiko Ariji, daughter, 22 years old, college student
Yukako Ariji, daughter, 20 years old, college student
Fumitaka Akiji, son, 15 years old, high school student
Mino Watanabe, grandmother, 78 years old

Town: Tendo City, a suburb of Yamagata.

Mr. and Mrs. Ariji picked me up at the hotel at about 9:30 a.m. We went directly to the car and they, in limited English, told me we were going to take a ride to the mountains. We drove a long time and slowly gained elevation, passing four ski areas along the way. It was raining hard and there was a lot of fog, so a view of the city and valley was not possible. The higher we went, the more fog there was. The final destination on the mountain was Zao National Park, which was a volcano that looked somewhat like Crater Lake in Oregon. Because of the fog, the lake was not visible. On the way down the mountain, we stopped at a natural hot spring where people were bathing.

Upon reaching the city, we went straight to a small restaurant and had sushi. I was the only non-Japanese, and the people enjoyed talking about me. After lunch—about 2:00 p.m.—we drove around seeing some of the sights of Tendo City.

The Ariji home is beautiful and brand-new. I doubt they had been in it much longer than a month. The house has three bedrooms and a toilet upstairs, plus a "deck." Downstairs are grandmother's room and the parent's bedroom, plus a living room and dining room. The rooms are not tiny but are almost completely bare. There are tatami mats in all the rooms except the halls and the kitchen. The bathroom is Japanese-style, with the small deep tub and a separate, small cubicle for the toilet. Mr. Ariji is especially proud of his toilet downstairs. It has a computer panel for the several functions it performs. He pointed out and explained each button to me.

Case Study by Donna Burr, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

After a cool drink, the entire family gathered around the living room table (10 inches off the floor); we exchanged gifts and talked. Then Mrs. Ariji dressed me in her kimono, and the family took pictures of me. They told me at 5:00 p.m. we were leaving for an evening outing. The women and I went to a very nice hotel and were escorted upstairs to one of the rooms. There tea was spread out for us. Father and son came soon after. We were given towels and told we would go take baths. Off we went downstairs to the hot springs in the hotel, men on one side, women on the other. It was a wonderful experience! There were several women bathing and the water was hot and bubbly. Back in our clothes, we were put in wonderful massage chairs that also had foot attachments.

Back upstairs a complete 14-course dinner was waiting for us—so much food and some of it pretty strange looking and tasting. First came cherry wine, then beer, then sake. First we drank, then ate, then drank some more. After more sake, the songs started and the three kids did a traditional dance. Hats decorated with cherry blossoms appeared for us and so of course we took pictures. We sang Christmas songs in July! What an evening!!

At home we went to bed. I was given two rooms for my personal use and slept in a traditional Japanese bed, a futon, on the floor.

The family's alarm, set for 5:00 a.m., woke me, and I couldn't go back to sleep. Finally I dressed and went for a walk around the neighborhood. No one else was up except for one woman walking her two dogs that had ribbons in their hair. Mr. Ariji came hurrying down to where I was and walked and talked with me. There was an elementary school near, so I walked over to it. It was an old building but had two swimming pools. According to Mr. Ariji, the enrollment is 245 students.

Houses in the neighborhood are set close together and have no yards. Most are in good repair. One new house is being built next to Mr. Ariji's house. He showed me where a new airport or else a landing strip are being built very near the school and his house. This did not seem to bother him at all. He owns a small amount of farmland a short distance from his house, but he is not farming it this year.

Case Study #8

The Watanabe family consists of four members, three of whom were available for me to meet. Mr. Watanabe is a middle-aged Certified Public Accountant. Mrs. Watanabe is a housewife, gourmet cook, and doll-maker. Son Jun is an architecture student, age 22. The elder son is a businessman working three hours outside of Tokyo; he only comes home twice a year, so unfortunately I didn't meet him. The family has a comfortable standard of living, as indicated to me by a large home, a nice economy car, international travel, elaborate meals, and a good education for both of their boys.

The home is both Japanese and Western. The parents sleep on futon in a traditional tatami-mat room. We ate our formal meals on the floor. Members of the family take a traditional hot bath. The house has a modern kitchen, a Western raised toilet, and beds in the other rooms (see floor plan). The Watanabes have a VCR, stereo, microwave, clothes washer, dishdryer, etc. The home is nicely decorated with things from many foreign travels and Mrs. Watanabe's handmade dolls. The family makes very good use of space in the home—very packed closets, attics, storage under the floors, bed, etc. The yard is very small but has beautiful little trees and shrubs.

The family is very active. Mr. Watanabe works until 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. and is home by 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. He works half the day Saturdays. He enjoys golf when he can afford the time and expense. He is also responsible for housecleaning on weekends. Mitsu, his wife, cooks breakfast and dinner but goes out during the day almost everyday for shopping, meeting with friends, or doing things with her International Women's Group. Both of her sons have passed the highly intense ordeal of competing for the best university, so her life is not so child-centered. Both Mr. Watanabe and Jun help with dishes, preparing foods, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Watanabe have a very close, warm, friendly, and affectionate relationship. All three family members at home joke with and support each other. Each seemed to respect the other and *value* the roles each played. There was an interdependence each seemed to understand well and honor.

The Watanabe family has traveled and also lived briefly in the U.S. They were well informed about Western ways and the things about their own culture that were unique to me. They therefore made a special effort to do typical, daily Japanese things with me, such as shopping for goods and foods for the meals,

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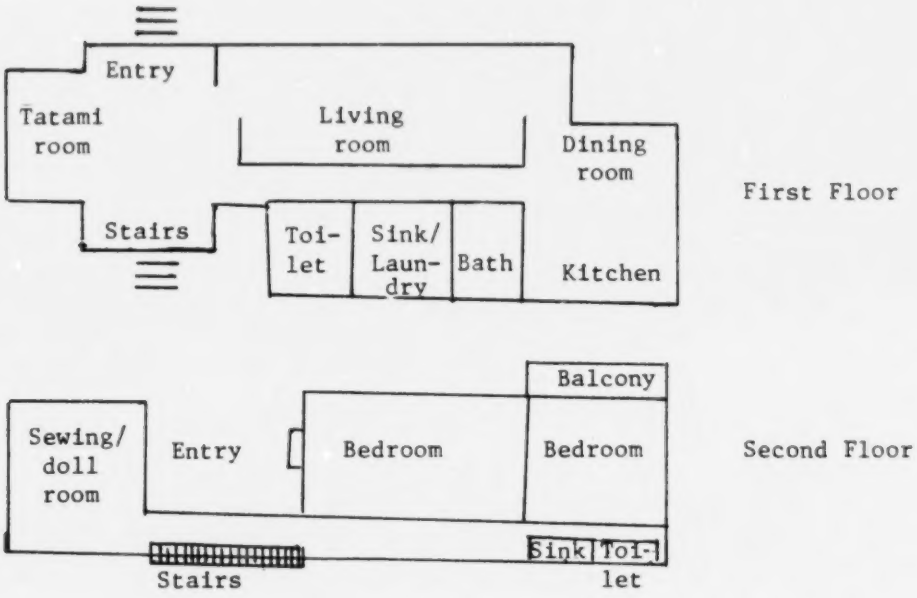
Case Study by Julie Jensen, Adams County (CO) School District #12.

cooking favorite Japanese dishes, touring a department store, showing pictures of sights of Japan, explaining Japanese TV shows, and offering me a hot bath each night.

FLOOR PLAN OF WATANABE HOME



Case Study #9

Mr. and Mrs. Takahashi are a middle-aged couple married 19 years. He is a teacher of social studies and she an elementary English teacher. They have no children.

They live in the capital city of a rural prefecture. Their home is a lovely, newly-built two-story house (see floor plan). As a matter of fact, their home appeared in a "House Beautiful"-type home-builders booklet with pictures of all their rooms and of them. They have traveled in Europe and taught in Turkey. As soon as we arrived home, they gave me a home tour. Mr. Takahashi was careful to show off many of his prized possessions. Following that, we went to Mrs. Takahashi's friend's restaurant and had a ten-dish lunch with a wide variety of typical Japanese choices – soup, rice, raw fish, cooked chrysanthemums, tempura, eggplant, whole fish, and several vegetable dishes.

The rest of the afternoon we paid visits to relatives. Mrs. Takahashi's brother, Kazno, is a Buddhist priest; we visited his temple and home, his wife, mother, and daughter. Kazno had followed in his father's footsteps in becoming a priest. His father had been the head priest of the same temple. He was also a painter and painted murals all around the temple.

Following that, we took a drive up into the Yamagata mountains to a small farming village and went into some very old farmhouses. No one spoke any English, nor had they ever had a foreigner come there, so this was a real strange feeling as they stared at me quite intently. The homes were what I had thought most Japanese houses would be like, but found this true mainly in rural areas. The homes were small, simple, and old-fashioned. Most of the rooms were floored with tatami mats and divided by rice paper walls. There were elaborate shrines. The kitchen, toilet, and bath facilities were old. There was old farming equipment and a rice cooker pit outside. It was a good chance to see how some farmers live and how most Japanese used to live. Wherever we went, Mr. Takahashi showed me off; he seemed proud to be hosting a foreigner.

We returned home after this five-hour excursion and immediately started dinner for the whole family and guests. Soon the priest, his wife, and the fisherman arrived – all, of course, with gifts. The women cooked another ten-dish meal of shrimp, chicken, sashimi, salmon, rice, beans, salad, soup, fruit and rice cakes. Although a woman, I was not allowed to help and instead was invited to drink wine

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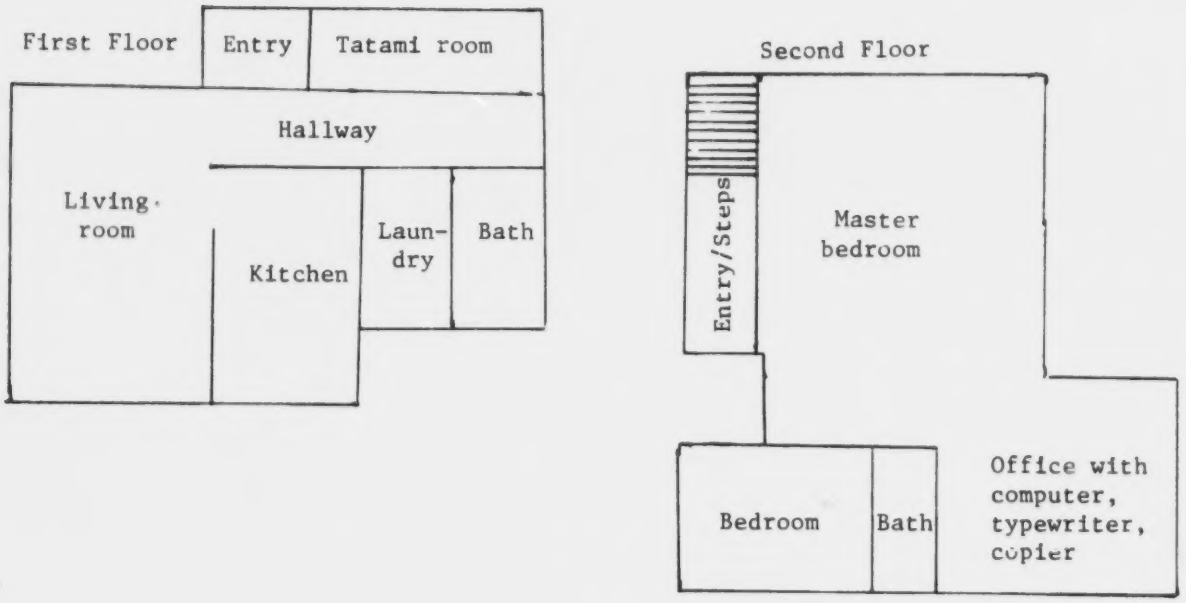
Case Study by Julie Jensen, Adams County (CO) School District #12.

and sake with the men. I felt very uncomfortable doing this as the women worked in the kitchen, but they shooed me off when I offered to arrange the vegetable tray. I guessed this was not only cultural, but that I was not as artistic at food arranging as they! After dinner was over and the guests left, I did laundry and went to bed. I slept in the tatami room. Morning was quick--a shower, breakfast of egg, ham, rice, bread, soup, fruit and coffee, more gifts and pictures, then off to rejoin the group.

FLOOR PLAN OF TAKAHASHI HOME



Case Study #10

I met Noboru Oba at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. We spent the remainder of the day together until I met his family at about 5:30 p.m. Mr. Oba explained that we would not be going to his home until later, as the family was at church. They are Southern Baptists belonging to a congregation of about 40 members. We spent the morning touring the city of Yamagata, seeing the church, Noboru's school, and the local museum. We also spent a few minutes at a municipal gymnasium, at which a college basketball tournament was in progress. We ate lunch at a nice restaurant at "education hall," where we had tempura. We then hurried to a kabuki theater and spent the next several hours being entertained by kabuki. I was told not to worry if I did not understand—Japanese do not understand kabuki either.

After kabuki, Mr. Oba and I drove to a cherry orchard owned by a friend of his. We spent several hours walking in the orchard, eating cherries, and being given the farmer's point of view about taxes, markets for crops, and so on.

On the way to the Oba home, we stopped at a local supermarket that sells Yamagata crafts. Mr. Oba insisted that he purchase a souvenir for my wife.

At the Oba home, three family members and a sister-in-law were present. Noboru Oba is in his mid-to-late forties and teaches English at a local high school. (The school is 60 years old—not the oldest but probably second.) He has been in that position since about March, previously having served as a teacher consultant in the prefectural office. Mr. Oba had been in the consulting position for some eight years, five years longer than is usual for this rotating position. He is currently a classroom teacher, which he says he enjoys very much. He strongly hinted that he expects to become an assistant principal in the not-too-distant future, but is still a bit too young. For now, he is happy to be back in the classroom, saying he enjoys working with students. For his daily schedule, Mr. Oba usually arrives at school about 7:30 a.m. and generally returns home about 12 hours later, as he also works with the track and field club.

Mr. Oba traveled for two months in the United States around 1970 and spent nearly 20 days with a group in Europe last year. He is very conversant in English. As we traveled around the city, Mr. Oba was greeted with great respect by numerous people. At one point, he made the statement that "men are first in this society." He visibly enjoyed that role.

Case Study by Marc McClanahan, Crook County (WY) School District #1.

Mrs. Oba is evidently an accomplished pianist and teaches lessons at a local college four days a week. The Obas have a grand piano in their home. Mrs. Oba was very busy with meal preparation when we arrived at home. She seemed to enjoy the evening and spoke English well when Mr. Oba was absent from the room for a few minutes during the evening.

Jun, the son, is in his first year of high school. He attends a private high school and speaks little English. He also apparently does not have a great comprehension of English. Except for the time he spent with us during a leisurely dinner, Jun was upstairs studying. He will soon be faced with his first high school exams. His father says of him, "He is not the kind who likes to study too hard. But, I like him. He has a warm heart."

The sister-in-law, who lives with the family, is an elementary teacher and an artist who is enjoying a holiday. She shared some of her beautiful paintings. There is also a 19-year-old daughter who lives with the family but whom I did not see. She evidently chose not to attend college, but rather to work just after high school. While the father says he just wants her to be able to take care of herself, there were some indications of displeasure at her decision. On the other hand, I heard praises and was shown pictures of two nieces, one of whom is at a university in Tokyo and one who lives in Virginia.

The Oba home is modern and spacious. It was evidently purchased about three years ago. On the first floor, there are six rooms plus the entry and bathroom facilities. The floors are either bare wooden or carpeted, except for one tatami-mat room. There are numerous books, including a set of the *Book of Knowledge*. Mr. Oba showed me one room he said has become sort of a storeroom. It was filled with all kinds of things stored in a big pile. The house was nicely furnished with beautiful things. There was a substantial amount of art. There were numerous paintings that followed no real theme. It was interesting that many of the paintings sat on the floor while others were hung. There were also a number of pieces of pottery. The grand piano was the largest piece of furniture. I was shown the two children's rooms upstairs. They were both good-sized rooms. Jun's had a rather large study area and posters of girls on the walls.

For dinner during my stay, we had a "Japanese-style barbeque" with the food prepared on a grill at the table. It basically consisted of beef, sausages, eggplant, sprouts, onions, green peppers with rice cakes, fruit, and considerable quantities of alcohol being added. We ate for hours!

Case Study #11

The Tomeo and Keoye Kambayashi residence sits on a hill overlooking the northern part of the city. The house is a four-bedroom, single-unit house. The two daughters and one son occupy three bedrooms upstairs; the master bedroom is downstairs off the combination living-dining area. All bedrooms have permanent raised beds, Western-style. Another room, roughly 9' x 12', where I slept, is probably a guest room. This room is decorated in traditional Japanese style with tatami mats covering the floor and beautiful scrolls on the walls. The room opens onto a good-sized patio with a wooden floor surrounding a large tree. It has an open barbeque grill. The kitchen leading from the living-dining area is small with limited shelving. It has an open ledge, approximately 4 feet wide, that serves as a counter between the kitchen and the dining area. On it is a microwave oven. To fit the compact kitchen, the refrigerator is narrow and high, and the electric range seems to be portable. It rests on the counter top. A small, oblong room—a passageway that leads to the bath—has shelves where the china and crystal are kept.

The Kambayashi bath is both Japanese and Western. It has a square (3' x 3') wooden tub, like an American hottub. Along the wall were very low faucets and several small plastic stools and buckets where the bather soaps down and rinses off before getting in the tub. In addition to all this, there was a shower.

The living-dining area has hardwood floors. Furniture includes an upright piano, a sofa with matching chairs, and a coffee table. The dining area includes a table that very comfortably seats eight. At one end of that room are two Ataris and a sizable collection of computer games. The Kambayashis have two cars, although only a one-car garage, which is under the house. Both cars are recent model Japanese cars; one is a station wagon.

Tameo Kambayashi and his family have lived in the same house for over 25 years. It has been remodeled only recently. He purchased it shortly after he went to work with Nippon Telephone and Electric Company. He was promoted to Executive Vice President in the company on July 1, 1988, two days before my homestay. He now wants to move out of that house and buy another—a larger one—in a more fashionable location. Tomeo has been and continues to be upwardly mobile. During the homestay, he constantly referred to his new position; while he never mentioned what his pay is, he on several occasions mentioned that he could now afford better things.

Case Study by Joseph Baca, New Mexico Department of Education.

Tomeo was awarded a B.A. degree by Tokyo University in 1955. He later studied at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) under a Fulbright Fellowship. In the last few years, he has traveled to Europe and the United States several times on business.

Keoye (Mrs. K.) stays in the background. She did not participate much in our conversation. She is self-conscious and apologetic about her "poor" English, which is not "poor" in my opinion. I gather, however, that she stays busy with a "ladies group" and plays tennis. Later this year, she will go to the University of Oregon to continue studying English.

Ken, the eldest of the Kambayashis' three children, is a university dropout. He is 24 and lives at home. Mr. Kambayashi expresses disapproval over his eldest son's situation. The Kambayashis want Ken to succeed. Ken has recently enrolled in a computer school, but he does not know what he wants to do with this skill when he completes the course. He is musically talented, and he plays in two bands. He and the rest of the family are Michael Jackson fans. Of the three children, Ken is the only who has not traveled out of the country.

Chie, the older of the two girls, works as a secretary and word processing operator in the office of Social Security. She was an AFS exchange student to the United States during high school, living in California for a year. She, of all the family, speaks almost flawless English. She has traveled a great deal and will soon be going to Hawaii for a two-week vacation.

Rie is the baby in the family. She is a junior in high school and leaves for Ohio later in the summer on a ten-month AFS exchange. She likes sculpture and probably will pursue that as a career. The family, except for Ken, dresses very nicely. Tomeo and Keoye left early on the Sunday morning I was there for Tokyo to attend an afternoon reception for a "high" executive of Pacific Plastics. I heard of PP throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, July 3, the Kambayashis had about 30 guests for a barbeque to celebrate Mr. Kambayashi's promotion. In the early morning, Tomeo and I went to do last minute shopping—a few more cans and bottles of beer, snacks, etc. We forgot to buy paper plates. I volunteered to go fetch them; after some discussion, in Japanese, they said "go." It was not too far to the nearby 7-11 store and it was just such a store, just like home. I ran the errand—about l/4 mile each way, uphill and downhill. I helped Tomeo, who by now was getting the coals good and hot. We carried out drink cans and bottles and placed them in wooden tubs fully iced. I recall at one point, as Tomeo and I were on the patio, hearing that wine is $50.00 a bottle. We iced several wines and got the glasses ready.

The guests were Tomeo's business friends and mostly company associates. Everyone who came brought a gift. Throughout the weekend, large potted plants with beautiful blossoms arrived, in keeping with the Japanese tradition of gift-giving.

The ladies present mixed nicely with each other. Some were wives and others girl friends. Anyway, they helped Keoye ready the food. I was asked if I wanted to help with the rice patties. I said "yes" and proceeded to form the cold rice into small triangles—about three inches high and roughly one inch thick. Beside the bowl of rice, the ladies set a small dish filled with salt. I did not do well on the first try. The ladies giggled as they instructed me. They told me to wet my hands, run them once over the salt bowl, then pick up a mound rice and knead it into a triangle. And by golly it worked. Salt keeps the rice from sticking to the hands. This finished, we took a break. During all the time, Keoye was in the kitchen supervising the help. While the party was in progress, the phone rang, the mailman came and left congratulatory messages, and more flowers were delivered. The photographer, who was also an associate of Mr. Kambayashi, took hundreds of pictures.

At 9:30 I announced that I should retire for the evening. But before I did, I was reintroduced as an educator from America visiting Japan to learn about Japan, its people, and its culture. In this introduction and throughout the whole weekend, I was referred to as "professor" and "Dr." Baca. Occasionally I was addressed as Joe or Mr. Baca, Joe-san, or Baca-san. At last I was "let out," but only after a husband and wife team presented me with a gift—an apron with Japanese words on it. Of course, I responded by going to my room and coming back with a 4" x 6" New Mexico Diamond Jubilee/U.S. Constitution Bicentennial flag. I had to explain what the Diamond Jubilee was about. With that they bowed, I bowed, everybody bowed, and off to bed I went. The party went on. By early the next morning when I left, the house was clean and spotless.

Case Study #12

The Yamaguchi family consists of Mr. Yamaguchi, 47; Mrs. Yamaguchi, 40; Naoki, a boy, 14; Keiko, a daughter, 13; and Mina, a daughter, 4.

Since children in Japan attend school five and one-half days each week, the routine of this family with school-age children is firmly set. The set schedule of the mother allows very little time for herself. At 6:30 a.m., Mrs. Yamaguchi rises and prepares breakfast for her children and husband. She also prepares bento-box lunches for all three children. At 7:30, she sees her husband and two older children off to work and school. At 8:00, she awakens the youngest child and sees that she eats and is dressed for school.

During the early morning, Mrs. Yamaguchi washes dishes or does daily laundry. Since the older children participate in baseball and basketball clubs after school, Mrs. Yamaguchi washes two changes of clothes each day for each child and washes all the towels each day. She typically does three loads of laundry daily. Clothes are washed in a small washer, then placed into a spinner, and finally hung out to dry on one of many drying poles around the yard.

At 9:00, a neighbor picks up Mina for preschool. Sometimes Mrs. Yamaguchi must walk Mina to school, leaving at 8:40.

At 11:10, Mrs. Yamaguchi walks to preschool to pick up her daughter. If the weather is pleasant, sometimes there is a picnic in the neighborhood park. Often, Mrs. Yamaguchi purchases groceries on the way back from preschool.

On Saturday afternoons, there are sometimes baseball games or basketball games to attend. On this particular Saturday, Naoki returned from school at about 1:00 and immediately turned on the TV. The older daughter, Keiko, was at basketball club, returning home at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Yamaguchi laughingly says that Keiko lives for basketball. Mrs. Yamaguchi spends two to three hours preparing dinner, which is eaten in shifts after the older children return home from school.

My arrival on Friday afternoon at 5:00 threw the Yamaguchis' regular routine into somewhat of a turmoil. Mrs. Yamaguchi had spent one and a half hours getting to the appointed meeting spot and although we returned immediately to Yokohama, dinner was late that evening and the teenagers were impatient.

As each of the teenagers arrived home, they headed straight for the refrigerator. They then asked, "What's for dinner and when is it going to be ready?"

Case Study by Nancy Core, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools.

Dinner was served at 7:30 in a traditional tatami room. The children were served, and Mrs. Yamaguchi dashed frantically between the kitchen and the table, making sure everything was just right. In deference to her son, Mrs. Yamaguchi prepares lemonade each evening. If he doesn't like a particular dish, Mrs. Yamaguchi prepares something special for him. However, when I was there, the older daughter also didn't like something but was given no special treatment.

The youngest child is adored by mother and father and is allowed to do pretty much as she pleases. She is very sure of herself and mimicks much of her mother's work. She serves tea, sets the table, assists with cooking, scurries around making sure things are just right. At mealtime if she eats, fine; if not, that's okay too.

Immediately after dinner, both teenagers turn on the TV's. The son watches the new one in the Western-style room, and the daughter sits on a stool in the hallway watching the old TV.

At 8:30, Mrs. Yamaguchi clears the dining table and saves her husband's dinner on the kitchen table. Unless the meal is prepared with oil, she does not prepare his meal separately. Many nights Mr. Yamaguchi works very late and, after work, stops off for a few drinks. Sometimes he misses the last train home and must take a taxi at the cost of 10,000 yen. This greatly displeases his wife, so she uses this as a bargaining tool. For example, for my visit, if he came home on time (before midnight), she would give him the money to play golf that he might otherwise have used for taxi fare.

At around 10:30, the children bathe and go to bed. At 11:30, Mr. Yamaguchi arrives home. Mrs. Yamaguchi brings him a snack before retiring.

Mr. and Mrs. Yamaguchi spend much time joking and teasing each other. There were no outward displays of affection other than the mother's slapping the father's hand as he took seconds of dessert and during a card game played after dinner one evening. The son carries on long conversations with his father about school, baseball, music, TV shows, and games in general. There is little dialogue between mother and son other than "Do you have your lunch? Have you showered yet?" There is even less conversation between the older daughter and her father. During the 36 hours I visited, there was not one exchange between the two.

Mr. Yamaguchi converses with the younger child. He holds her on his lap, sings songs to her, and is very nurturing. In fact, both mornings I was there, it was her father that chose her clothes for the day and dressed her.

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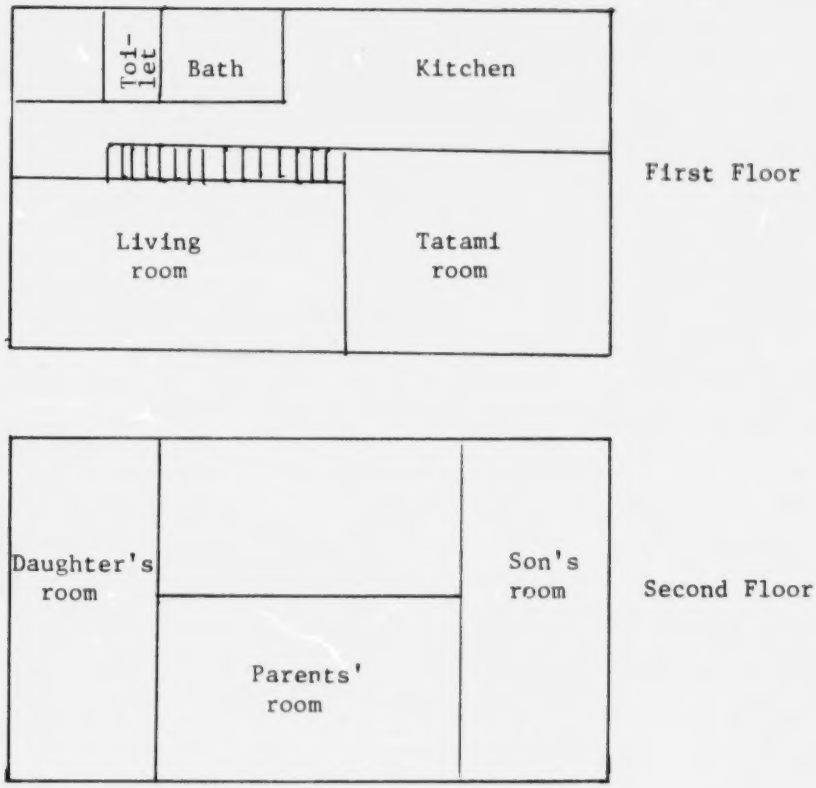
This family seems economically comfortable. Ten years ago, when they purchased their home, it was quite sufficient for their needs. It is a two-story house with three good-sized bedrooms and a yard (see floor plan). It is located on the edge of Yokohama. Now with three children and a dog, the house is a bit crowded. Since there was a table with six chairs in the kitchen, I teased the mother that her home was larger than mine. (In fact it was larger.)

The youngest child shared her parents' room; however, the chest of drawers for her clothes was in the tatami room. This caused confusion when guests were present. Mrs. Yamaguchi said that her husband liked the tatami room to be kept neat and tidy, which wasn't always possible with three children.

Mrs. Yamaguchi expressed envy when speaking about having a job outside the home. Her good friend is a professor and also has a four-year-old. Mrs. Yamaguchi said repeatedly she would like to work. Years ago she said she discussed such things with her husband, but he would have no part of it. He wanted her at home. Since then, she has had her third child.

FLOOR PLAN OF YAMAGUCHI HOME



Case Study #13

My homestay host, Mr. Sato, met me in the lobby of the hotel. I had been advised that he did not speak English and that his family might not either. Another man, Mr. Aba, helped out with the language, but communication was not really a hassle once we got under way.

The Sato house is located in a large subdivision—a very nice area of this rural prefectural capital. It is a three-bedroom house with combination kitchen-den-living area. This is a large, oblong room. The kitchen area includes a gas range, a large U.S. refrigerator, limited cabinet space, and a window over the sink. In the middle of the room is a table with six bamboo, wicker-backed chairs with soft cushions. On one side of the room, a teakwood china closet holds their Sunday or special events dishes. The living part of the room has a TV viewing area. Here, a 24" color TV rests on a pedestal. The furnishings in this room also include an L-shaped divan and loveseat, both cushioned, and an upright piano. In this room also are family photographs. The master bedroom is on the first level, but I do not know how this room was furnished.

The children's rooms and study with Mr. Sato's professional books are upstairs. Here the bedrooms are perhaps 9' x 12'. The floors are covered with tatami mats and closets are built-in. The kids sleep on futons and each has posters and pictures on the wall. Each kid's room has a desk and chair. The study has what appears to be a tall antique mahogany cabinet.

Mr. Sato has a degree in horticulture from Kyoto University. He is a prefectural (state) employee as a horticulturist. Mrs. Sato also holds a degree (college not mentioned but I gathered it was not a big-name school). She is a housewife and enjoys being one. Mr. and Mrs. Sato only recently took up golf. It's expensive, he says, but both enjoy the sport. The family enjoys bowling—at least once weekly. The family has traveled, primarily in Malaysia and Hong Kong. The son would like to spend time in the United States, perhaps as an exchange student.

On Sunday after Mr. Sato picked me up, we went directly home to meet the family. Mrs. Sato's 73-year-old granddad was there. He had visited San Francisco and Los Angeles as a younger person, and he has fond memories of his visits. He considers himself an artist. The Satos have some of his water colors, and they looked good to me. I told him that my wife tinkered with Chinese brush painting, and he said that medium required a lot of patience but that it was indeed different from American painting.

Case Study by Joseph Baca, New Mexico Department of Education.

The gifts I had for the family became conversation pieces. I explained about Indian art (sand painting), road runners (N.M. state bird), and the designs on the small and large decorated tiles. The posters were well received, and I explained those. Mr. Sato said he'd frame them appropriately and hang them in his office. To the grandfather I gave a New Mexico lapel pin (the Zia symbol, which represents the state flag). He had to tell me about the prefectural bird and flower. During this time, Mrs. Sato served tea and sweets. We took granddad to his home.

Around 1:30, we had lunch. We sat on the floor and the food came in quantity – an excellent variety of fish, vegetables, rice, and salad. For dessert we had fruit compote.

After lunch on Sunday, the whole family went to a cherry orchard. The orchard was out quite a ways, and the countryside along the route was beautiful. As we drove, Mr. Sato stopped once to show me the old thatched-roof houses that went back many, many years. He explained how the grass was prepared and finally put up as a roof. Nearby I located what appeared to be an adobe wall, so we went to examine it. It was adobe of sorts, and it did have straw. I then explained how it resembled a similar structure I had seen in Nara south of Kyoto and adobe construction in northern New Mexico.

We drove a few more miles and finally got to the cherry orchard. I could not imagine why there was so much talk about the cherry orchard. Why was it so important that we had to drive so far to see it? As it turned out, Mr. Sato, as a horticulturalist, has been helping the owner, Mr. Edo, in developing new kinds of cherries by grafting. We met Mr. Edo and, with Mr. Aba as interpreter, we got along just fine. Topics, all related to agriculture, were plentiful. I spoke of the U.S. government's paying farmers not to plant, and Mr. Edo said that his government did similar things; for example, he could not plant rice but he could put in an orchard.

On Monday we were up early. Mrs. Sato prepared a Japanese-style breakfast: a variety of fish, soup with bamboo shoots, rice, salad, and watermelon. I also had a nice crisp lettuce, tomato, and onion salad. We then lined up for pictures. The kids took off for school – the young lady in black skirt and white blouse, and the lad far more casually dressed.

Religion was not a topic we talked about, but when we visited a small temple, the family stopped off to pray and make an offering.

The language factor kept me from asking Mr. Sato about his career goals, but I did inquire from his friend Mr. Aba. He said Sato was in line for promotion and that before long he would move up. According to Aba, Sato is considered an outstanding horticulturalist in the country. Aba did say Sato would like to visit the United States to study and that some day soon he probably would.

At bedtime, I was shown to my room, shown the toilet and bath facilities. The shower worked a bit differently from what I had used elsewhere, so Mr. Sato explained. This was on the first level. He suggested that I might want to use the bathtub as well, as it would help me relax, and I did. He indicated the toilet (commode) was also different, and he proceeded to show me how it worked. The wash basin in the antechamber had only cold water.

Case Study #14

My homestay visit involved spending time with a family of four. This was the first time they had had an American stay in their home. The family consisted of Mr. Tsuyoshi Uwabo (Uwabo-san); his wife, Eiko; and their two children—Yumi, age 18, a senior in high school; and a son Hitoshi, age 19, attending college with the aim of receiving a degree in mechanical engineering.

Uwabo-san works for Bank of America, Tokyo branch. He takes the subway to work everyday, with the trip taking about I l/2 hours. Uwabo-san has worked for Bank of America for 30 years. His job title is Assistant Vice President, with duties involving accounting and bookkeeping. He supervises approximately 25 people. Because of his job, he has opportunities to travel to other branches of Bank of America, in places such as Seoul, Manila, etc.; he has not traveled to the United States yet. His hobbies are playing tennis and golf.

Eiko Uwabo manages the home and also has an occasional part-time job typing various company training manuals. She is able to work from her home with this type of job and likes being able to do so. She enjoys playing and watching tennis.

The house the Uwabos live in was built in 1986. It has many convenience appliances, such as a gas four-burner stove, a gas washer and dryer, a microwave, and an electric rice cooker, which Eiko has had for 20 years.

Since Uwabo-san works for the Bank of America, he was able to get a bank loan for the house at a cheaper interest rate than normal, less than 8 percent. Uwabo-san's loan for the house is for 14 years. He created the loan this way because he will retire from the company in eight years, and at that time the loan on the house will be completely paid for. The purchase price of the house was 64,000,000 yen. At the current exchange rate of 130 yen to $1.00, the cost of the house is approximately $492,000. The major part of the bonus money that Uwabo-san receives twice a year as Japanese custom goes toward making house payments.

The family enjoys a remote-control color TV, stereo, videotape machines, a dining room table with six chairs (used for every meal), air conditioning, etc. The family enjoys music, including many different styles and kinds of American music, ranging from old songs from the 1950s sung by the Platters, to 1980s Billy Joel and Madonna, to country-western music. The children have stereos of their own in

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Case Study by Dwaine Schmidt, Adams County (CO) School District #12.

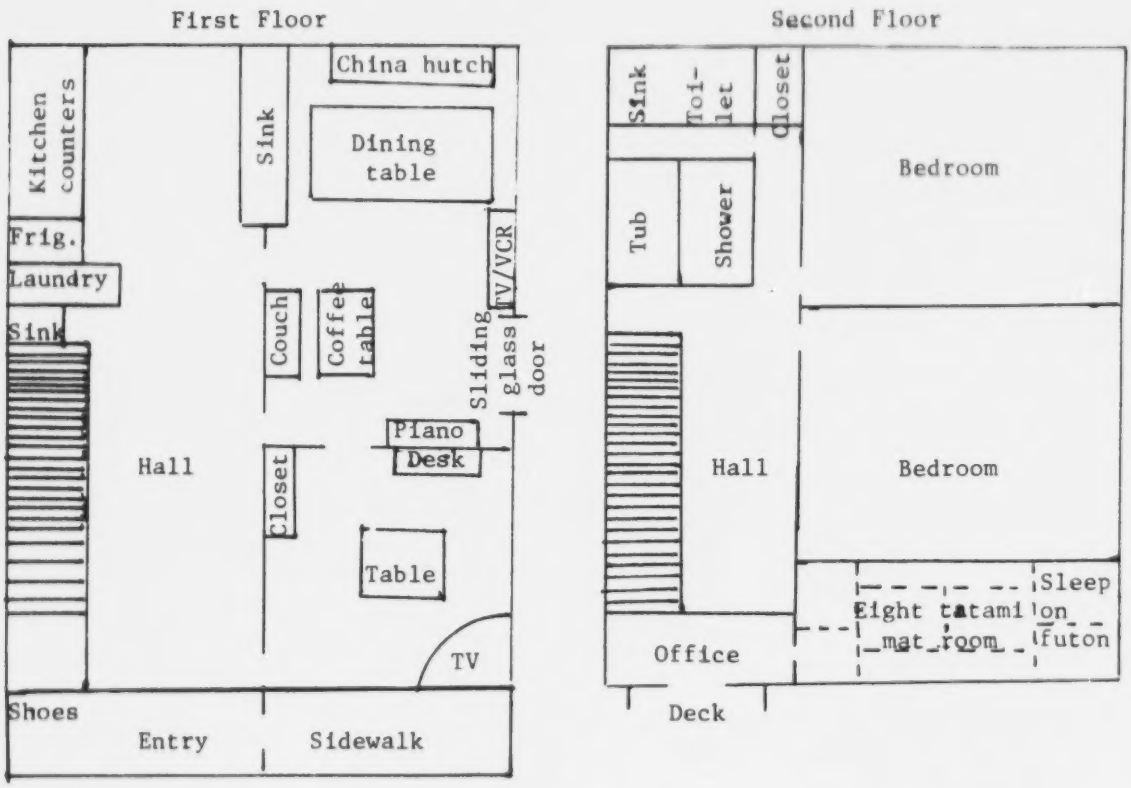
their rooms, where they spend time alone listening to American music as well as Japanese artists, such as "Boowie" and the "Southern All Stars."

Hitoshi, the son, was very quiet and shy at first but grew more comfortable as my homestay proceeded. He did not speak English often, mainly because of shyness and being self-conscious about his English abilities. He attends a college about two hours away by train and subway. He is in his first year of college and feels the work is difficult. His interests include cars and motorcycles; he hopes to get his own motorcycle soon. A friend of his was at the house and stated that his motorcycle had recently been stolen from college. Uwabo-san confirmed that incidents such as that occur more and more often.

The daughter Yumi is not interested in college. She would like to work as a translator, translating Japanese into English in the written form. There does not seem to be much disappointment from Mr. and Mrs. Uwabo about her not choosing to go to college. Yumi is finishing high school at the school she was attending before the family moved to Yokohama. She must take trains and subways to go to school each day. She is planning to go to Utah during the summer of 1989 on a program designed to provide Japanese students one-month homestays.

The Uwabo family appeared close. All the members of the family interacted with each other. Mr. Uwabo works many hours for the bank during the week, and so on weekends he enjoys playing tennis with his wife and spending time around the house relaxing, watching sports on TV, etc. Mrs. Uwabo does all the cooking and taking care of the house and seems to wait on Mr. Uwabo for many things. The meals served by Mrs. Uwabo were mainly Japanese, but a few "Western accents" were added to make me feel more welcome. They eat all meals quickly with chopsticks, but were very willing to invite me to use knife, fork, and spoon when I needed. The meals included many different types of Japanese food, again to provide me with many different experiences.

FLOOR PLAN OF UWABO HOME



Case Study #15

This homestay was only for one night. I felt my homestay family wanted to include so many things for me that it seemed rushed.

After meeting at the hotel, I, my host family Mr. and Mrs. Susumu Koseki—as well as a young American named John, who was working as an English teacher in this city—all left to visit the Yamagata museum. John had been in Yamagata for almost one year. Mr. Koseki had asked John to stay with him for the day to interpret, because Mr. Koseki was concerned that his own English was inadequate. John speaks Japanese very well and also helps Mr. Koseki learn English as they interact. We went to the museum to see a special exhibit of Chinese art. Mr. Koseki pointed out that this was important because of the influence China has had on Japan's history and culture.

After viewing, we left the museum to go to Mr. Koseki's home. Mr. Koseki took many pictures of me, John and me, and John, Mrs. Koseki, and me. This seemed to be very important to him.

Upon arriving at their home, I met Mr. Koseki's mother, who also lives with them. Mr. and Mrs. Koseki bought this home in 1964; at that time both Mr. Koseki's parents lived with them. His father died about 13 or 14 years ago. His father was a policeman; his picture is proudly displayed in the house.

Mr. Koseki works as a teacher's consultant for a branch education office of the Yamagata Prefectural Board of Education. Prior to that, he was a junior high school teacher. He loved to coach baseball and was very proud of the many winning seasons he had when he was a teacher. Mrs. Koseki is a third grade teacher.

The Kosekis have two children, a boy, Jun, and a girl, Junko. The boy is a senior at a private high school. He is studying very hard for university-entrance tests that will be coming up shortly. The university he wants to attend is located in his home town. Junko is in the tenth grade of an all-girls high school. On the day of my homestay, she was at school taking tests.

Our day consisted of driving around areas of Yamagata and visiting many different things:

Case Study by Dwaine Schmidt, Adams County (CO) School District 12.

1. Lunch at a restaurant, with old-style building, old roof, and many old Japanese artifacts on the walls. We had soba noodles for lunch, but Mrs. Koseki made tea and extra sandwiches, which she brought with her to make sure "we had enough to eat."

2. Driving to a mountain temple with a hot springs. This hot springs is created by water coming out of a rock structure. The family took me through the area, explaining the rituals, history, and so on.

3. Visiting the area where they have summer skiing. Mr. Koseki told me that when he was younger, he'd have to walk to this area before they had better roads. Mr. and Mrs. Koseki were very proud of the mountains and beautiful scenery that they were showing me. I felt it was like their gift to me.

Upon returning home, I was taken around several back roads and shown unique, off-the-beaten-path temples and Buddhist pagodas made of wood and old-type roofs.

We arrived home at 7:00 p.m. The hot bath was waiting for us. As a guest, I was invited to use the bath first. As I bathed, Mrs. Koseki prepared dinner, which included a little of everything one could imagine, such as vegetables, hamburgers, shrimp, rice, sushi, and salads. They also served boiled chrysanthenum petals with soy sauce. It was very evident that this was a special occasion. During dinner, many different types of liquor were served—beer, wine, sake, whiskey—all with a clear message of wanting to make my stay as happy as possible.

My sleeping arrangement was a futon bed in a tatami-mat room. The gifts that I gave them were very appreciated. I gave Mrs. Koseki an Aspen leaf pin, which she wore to school the next day, I also gave her books on Colorado and maps of Colorado to share with her students. She made sure to tell me in English that she was going to tell her students about her American guest. Breakfast was made and waiting for me, with fresh baked bread that Mrs. Koseki had made that morning.

Being on time to the prearranged pickup time for the Americans was strictly adhered to by Mr. Koseki, but there was still enough time to take pictures of John, grandmother Koseki, and me before we left.

I felt very special in this homestay. It was a unique experience for them to have an American staying in their home.

Case Study #16

My homestay family, the Hiranos, included four members. The father, Rataro, is a chemical engineer with a major chemical company. His major goal is to move up into a high position in his company. To reach his goal, he leaves home at 6:30 a.m. It takes 35 minutes by train to reach his place of work. He told me that at work he takes only a short lunch break because he wants to show his supervisor his enthusiasm. Usually he returns home around 9:00 or 10:00 p.m.

At home Rataro has no real responsibility except to eat, bathe, and sleep. On weekends he helps a little around the home. He feels that since he works, it is his wife's responsibility to take care of the home and children. Every two weeks he teaches English to a small group of local women. The classes are conducted in his home. His teaching material consists of a textbook, worksheets, and a follow-along tape. He likes to watch golf on TV and play tennis.

His wife is a very quiet, shy individual. She spends most of her day at home. Her best friend lives next door, so this allows them to spend a lot of time together. She likes to read romantic novels and listen to classical music.

They have two sons, ages 11 and 14. The oldest son is very quiet. He likes to play the piano and play video games. Unlike his younger brother, he has no interest in baseball. I don't know if he has many friends. I make that conclusion based on comparisons between him and his brother, who had several friends over during my stay. The younger son loves baseball. He practices one night during the week and on Saturday and Sunday. His favorite things other than baseball are to watch TV and play video games.

The Hiranos live in a company apartment building. The building is very old and rundown. Their apartment is about 20 feet long by about 14 feet wide. There are two very small bedrooms. The floors are covered by tatami mats. The parents' room is also the sitting room and piano room. The family sleeps on the floor on futons. The kitchen is also compact. A small water heater above the sink heats water for the kitchen. In the bathroom, bath water is heated by a gas heater next to the tub. The bathtub was 2' x 2' x 2'. You wash up by using a bucket and dipping water out of the tub. A traditional Japanese toilet is in a separate room the size of a small closet. A small sink is also located in the toilet room.

Case Study by Dale Petersen, Crook County (WY) School District #1.

The home has few furnishings other than a piano, a very old couch, a table, and chair. Electronic equipment includes two small TVs, a VCR, and a personal computer.

The family income is around $65,000 (U.S.), but the apartment would suggest very humble conditions.

The family relationship seemed sound. The children were well behaved. The mother was the real authority when discipline was needed. At meal time, the father was served first. After he began eating, the mother filled her plate. Most meals consisted of rice, vegetables, and some type of meat or fish. The meals were simple but filling. After the meal, the wife filled the bathtub. On weeknights when the father returns home late, the rest of the family takes their baths first. On weekends, he always takes the first bath.

Case Study #17

Family members:

1. Grandfather Koichi Sato, about 56. Koichi Sato is principal of an elementary school that is right next to Kaminoyama Castle, which is the smallest castle in Japan. He has been a principal for eight or nine years and speaks little English. He likes to drive fast and consequently keeps a radar detector on his left front visor to warn him when a policeman is in the area.

About three times a month, Koichi likes to go fishing and sometimes catches fish. His other hobby is making bonsai trees, but "he is not so good" at it according to his son. Koichi originally came from a neighboring province, but he moved into his wife's family's home in Yamagata after marriage.

2. Grandmother Chisako Sato, mid-forties. Chisako smiles a lot and seemed to be in charge of where to take the foreign guest. Yet neither she nor her daughter accompanied us during the day. Her son said that she teaches piano lessons and is also good at ikebana.

3. Wife Noriko, mid-twenties. Noriko comes from Kaminoyama City and currently works as a clerk/secretary in a school. She has been married to my interpreter host for three years and has a 7-month-old baby girl named Mari. Their marriage was arranged. She is very pretty and seemed quite shy.

4. Husband Toshiro, late twenties. Toshiro speaks English quite well but often misunderstood my questions. He has been teaching English at Yamagata Sixth Junior High School for six years. His B.A. is in English and literature. He teaches five classes every day of the week except Tuesday and Thursday, when he teaches six. This sixth class is related to some sort of school club. His average day goes like this:

5:30:	gets up and studies English by reading a newspaper/book
7:00:	breakfast
7:30:	drives his Subaru to school, a ten-minute drive
8:00-3:00:	teaches
3:00-5:00:	conducts club activities
5:00-7:00:	teacher meetings (all faculty, methods, cleaning school, health and physical education, etc.)
7:00:	drives home and has dinner

Case Study by Sandra Hargrove, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District.

On Saturday, Toshiro teaches three classes and then stays at school working until 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. Sunday is a .ree day when he can sleep till 8:00 a.m., drive around, sleep, and relax with family.

5. Younger brother. He was introduced to me, but when I asked Toshiro to list his family names he left off brother. Brother is in his early twenties. He teaches fifth grade in an elementary school some distance away but often comes home on weekends. He has been teaching for three or four years. He did not speak English but seemed to understand some.

Activities:

The three men and I drove around to see the main sights. First was Yamadera Temple, which took many stone steps to the top and was once a monastery training center. Then they took me in a cable car up to the top of Mt. Zao. We ate lunch at a large soba-ya (noodle restaurant), then off to see a castle and museum.

Each time we finished an activity, they stopped to have a drink of something (grape juice, lemonade) and rest up the foreign guest. Also I think they were trying to fill up my day. Then we went home for me to "take a rest" from 5:00 to 7:00 before dinner.

House:

The family house consists of at least two buildings in a low-walled compound. I saw many similar dwellings in this area. The building I was in seemed quite large. They did not offer to show me around, so I have no diagram. Upstairs was a separate toilet. Then down a long hall was my "room." It consisted of a Western-style carpeted room with table and two low chairs (too low to sit in comfortably) and an eight-mat tatami room. There was an upright electric heater in the tatami room and an air-conditioner in the Western room. Bookcases and closets lined the walls of both rooms. There was a TV, a typewriter (electric), and a massive stereo system in the carpeted room.

Case Study #18

Asushi is a 26-year-old single man. He is a college graduate and is employed as a personnel officer with the prefectural government of Yamagata, a rural prefecture five hours north of Tokyo. He lives with his parents.

His father and mother are rice farmers. Rice farming has brought to the family a very generous income. The family home is large by American standards: five bedrooms, as well as a very modern kitchen, bath and toilet. Tatami mats cover the floor in all of the living areas. Each room is decorated with Japanese paintings and scrolls, as well as Western furniture. In one room is a very elaborate Buddhist altar. The family feels that Buddhism helps guide their day-to-day life.

Also living in the home is Asushi's 18-year-old sister and his 78-year-old grandmother, for a total of five people. The sister has just begun her college studies. She is majoring in English, although her English is very limited at this point. She does much of the household work, since her mother works in the rice fields until around 7:00 p.m. The grandmother cares for herself and also works several hours a day in the fields.

The males of the family are served by the females. The men always eat first, and they are also the first to take a bath. The family seems to relate well to each other. They seemed to be interested in each other's activities even though they do very few activities together.

Asushi hopes to marry when he is around the age of 30. He wants to become established in his job before he has to face family responsibilities. For now, he has a comfortable life-style. He owns a late-model car, the latest in stereo and TV equipment, and has the freedom and resources to travel.

Case Study by Dale Petersen, Crook County (WY) School District #1.

Case Study #19

My first opportunity to know the Suniyoshi family was when Yoshiko came to the hotel in Yokohama to pick me up. Most of my impressions of this family came through my contacts with her. Little did I realize that the very beautiful brush painting card that she had sent me before I arrived in their city would be part of this interesting adventure.

Yoshiko Suniyoshi has been married 23 years, meeting her husband after she had attended a two-year college and he had graduated from his university. They were working at the same company. (He continues to work at that company and has now been employed there for 32 years.) After they were married, Yoshiko quit her job. Their oldest son was born in the second year of their marriage. They have a family of three children. Toru, a son of 24, is a college graduate who now works with the Bank of America. He lives in a company dorm and has a girl friend whom he soon hopes to marry. Because he lives in a nearby city, he sees his parents once every three or four months. The daughter, Keiko, age 22, was one of the five young women chosen as "Miss Yokohama" for 1987. She graduated from a two-year college program and recently started a job in graphic arts at a television company in Tokyo. The youngest son, Kiyoshi, age 17, is in his third year of high school and is preparing for his exams for college during this next year.

As her children have grown to young adulthood, Yoshiko, although not working full time, has a busy schedule that does include some part-time work. She gives English classes to junior high and high school students, volunteers once a week at the elementary school that her children attended, takes language lessons for herself in Chinese and English, and twice monthly takes brush-painting classes.

On our way to her home from the hotel, Yoshiko asked if I would be interested in seeing a Chinese pharmacy, since she had to pick up some pain medicine for her younger son. This brief side trip included a fascinating view of dried herbs, plants, and parts of animals in jars; we watched the owner combine a variety of items that he individually packaged for each customer. His family lived behind the store, and Yoshiko introduced me to his wife and their 11-year-old daughter. We then went to the family dining room and had tea with a sweet cake. After we left, Yoshiko told me that I was the first person they had ever had in their home from another country and that the mother was especially shy. I felt very pleased as the tea and communication had gone as smoothly and relaxed as possible for newly acquainted persons. They wanted me to have a gift from their store; thus, I have a package labeled "Nightingale droppings," which are good for the skin!

Case Study by Camille Oetting, Adams (CO) School District #12.

After a bus ride, one subway, and a second bus, we had only a few blocks to walk to the home their family had built in Yokohama 18 years ago. During this time, I had learned that Yoshiko views herself as a modern woman for her age. She told me with pride that she had seen in the local newspaper a two-month stay in the United States—an international exchange for persons in Japan wanting to learn more English. When she first asked her husband, he was not in favor of this but in time changed his mind, and she spent two and a half months in Connecticut during the fall of 1987. As a spinoff of this experience, they had an American student in their home for the past month, a young man who was traveling to Nara. Yoshiko mentioned that her husband's office friends teased him about his wife's going to the states on her own, but she wanted to go on a second, longer program for approximately four months.

That evening Yoshiko made a special dinner of shabu shabu for the three of us—which now included 17-year-old Kiyoshi. He loves American music, plays the guitar, and attends a private school. He does not go to additional cram schools but studies a great deal, since he is preparing for the exams. Yoshiko told me later that he has been the most difficult of their three children to raise. I suspect since she frequently mentioned his love of guitar that this has been the problem. Clearly, the family expects Ki to go to a university and become a "salaryman" in business.

Mr. Suniyoshi did not arrive home until very late, as he was returning from a business trip to New Orleans. However, on Saturday morning he was up early getting ready for a karate weekend with office mates, which took him to another city overnight. He is now a vice president in the food division of his company. He plans to continue his work career until he reaches the age of 65. He does travel often (Europe, Asia, U.S.) and works long days in the Tokyo office—staying at a small apartment the company provides. Their home reflects his travels, as he enjoys purchasing wood carvings, art objects, etc. From the furnishings, accessory items, and many books, the house and storage areas were quite full—almost to an overload condition.

Mr. Suniyoshi's favorite pastime is golf, and he thus has a membership with a golf club. It did not appear that the family traveled together, played together (all having separate interests), or had much family time together. In fact, I saw more individuals than blends, which seems to be what they like. Oshiko said that when her husband is home, she fixes the traditional Japanese foods, but since he is frequently away, most of her cooking is Western. She also said that when he is away, she has more time for her varied activities.

On Saturday morning, I attended and participated in Yoshiko's private brush painting class. This was traditional Japanese brush painting with black ink, called sumi-e. We then went to her neighbors' "green market," where we met and she

chatted with neighbors. We had lunch at the home of a neighbor whose teenage daughter will be traveling to the United States this summer for the first time. Since this travel was to be a new experience, Yoshiko felt it would be helpful for the neighbor to meet someone from the U.S. The family is somewhat nervous about this planned trip.

Later that afternoon, we attended Yoshiko's weekly English lesson, sponsored by Yokohama City. The lesson was structured around a 15-minute segment of the American TV program "60 Minutes." The learning concentrated on the speech, as well as concepts and points of grammar. At the end of this two and one-half hour lesson, a group of six of us went to view the Yokohama port and then had dinner in Chinatown. This was a beautiful evening for walking and viewing, and Chinatown was alive and busy and colorful.

The next morning, I reflected on the variety of activities that I had been a part of in the Suniyoshi home and felt that I had been included in the daily events of Yoshiko.

Case Study #20

The Oba family consists of Mr. Oba, his wife, his mother (84 years old), and three children. Two of the children, daughters enrolled in college, were away at school during my visit.

Mr. Oba, my homestay host, was the only member of his family who spoke English; at times this was only on a limited basis. He is the principal of a junior high school with an enrollment of 300 students and 20 staff in a small community outside of Yamagata. Ten years ago as a social studies teacher, Mr. Oba was one of 14 Japanese educators who took part in a two-month educational exchange, which included English sessions, school visits, a bus trip throughout the U.S., and three host families. He is the only member of his family who has traveled to the states, and he has fond memories of that experience.

The first event planned during my visit was to visit Yamadera, a temple outside of Yamagata, which was like the climb (by steps) to the top of the world. Afterwards we drove to a small village and had a lunch of Japanese noodles (soba) in an old farmhouse. The restaurant was very crowded. Many families had young children with them for their Sunday family outing. We then visited an ancient manor home of rich merchants of the Edo period who acquired their wealth by raising and selling safflower plants. I saw maps of the silk road travels in Asia, the importance of ship travel and major parts of Japan, the trading activities in Kyoto, and artifacts of the Edo period. By then it was late afternoon, and we returned to the Oba home.

The Obas live in a large and spacious home. The house setting was on a business street of a small village but "set back" by a gravel driveway and a vegetable and fruit garden. The house was built of stone and wood with a charming Japanese garden on one side with pond and fish. I was surprised by the size and spaciousness of this two-story home. A stone entryway led to a living room, dining room/kitchen, laundry room, grandmother's bedroom, bathroom, and main bedroom on the first floor. A charming feature included a small room attached to the master bedroom; it was called the "tea room" and had tatami mats, an area in the middle lowered for heating with a black iron hanging chain and pot that could be lowered for tea. The stairway led to an upper bedroom, which was located over the entry; another set of stairs led to the upper story, which housed two additional bedrooms. The design, amount of space, and furnishing compared to my own home. It did not emphasize compactness of space or space limitations. The Obas own five TVs, two VCRs, and five cars (all Japanese) for their family.

Case Study by Camille Oetting, Adams County (CO) School District #12.

At home, Mrs. Oba fixed a snack of green tea and sweets. Mrs. Oba later fixed a special meal of tempura. At 8:00, the son, Koki, age 26, arrived home, and we sat down to a family dinner. Before this, the grandmother brought me to her bedroom. She brought the rice for evening supper, placed it before a Buddhist altar, lit incense, and prayed. She then showed me her prayer books and pictures of her six grown children, 14 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, as well as pictures of her dead husband.

During dinner, Mr. Oba told me that both of his daughters are also studying to be teachers. The evening was spent in showing me how to fold the paper crane. During the evening, one daughter called home from her school to talk with the family. Both daughters come home during school vacations. I felt that I was with a family that is frequently together.

Mr. Oba told me that there are no cram schools in this town, so he must work long days as a teacher. His day starts at 7:00 a.m. and frequently goes till 7:00 p.m. as he works with students preparing to take exams. Mr. Oba doesn't like the "exam hell" but feels that in his rural city there is much less "exam hell" pressure on students than in Tokyo.

Case Study #21

Family members: (1) Wife, Sieko, 44 years old, teaches English in a private language school; (2) Husband, Akihiko, 48 years old, quality control manager at Canon for past 22 years.

My hostess, Seiko, appeared to have a very warm and close relationship with her husband. After 18 years of marriage, they have no children and say they are glad. They have two different breeds of Japanese dogs (Chi and Kai) named Momko and Oto.

Seiko's mother (70 years old) and father (76 years old) are still living and reside in Akita Prefecture in northern Honshu. They are Shinto and Buddhist. Her father is retired and works in his garden.

Seiko went to a Christian girls school, then joined the Anglican Church after she married. In addition to working as an English language instructor, Seiko has a license to teach ikebana. Her actual license is a long wooden board displayed in the hallway. Seiko also has inherited a large collection of kimonos. We spent two or three hours trying them on; they were beautiful.

Seiko's husband, Akihiko, was eager to meet me. His boss had asked him to stay for a drink after work, but he explained that he had a foreign visitor and so was able to get home early—9:00 p.m. Akihiko prefers time at home rather than at work and does not want to move up in his company for fear of losing what little time he does have off from work. He does not want to become a workaholic. Akihiko seems very intelligent and down-to-earth. His favorite hobby is listening to baroque music and playing the recorder and organ. Both his parents are dead. Their ancestry could be traced back to Samurai, a fact about which Seiko was very proud. Akihiko's mother died three years ago. His father died when Akihiko was in high school. It was shortly after his father's death that Akihiko joined the oldest Angelican church in Japan.

Seiko and Akihiko live in a small, comfortable house on land purchased by Canon. Six other families around them also live on this company land. They are buying the house. The house is a combination of Western and Japanese styles. The living room, study, kitchen, and dining room were Western, while the separate bathroom, side garden, and two bedrooms were Japanese. Seiko was eager to show me every nook and cranny of her home (see attached floor plan).

Case Study by Sandra Hargrove, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District.

In Japan the bathroom as Americans know it is separated into two rooms, which are usually found in different parts of the house. One room contains the toilet. The second room contains a bathtub and separate hand-held shower or water bucket. In bathing, a person washes up and rinses off before getting into the tub of hot water to soak. All members of the family will take turns soaking in the same water.

Seiko likes to bake. It was interesting to watch her weigh out her ingredients instead of using cup/spoon measures. She has a dough maker and small microwave but mostly uses a gas oven. She has no dishwasher. There were few plates or other utensils due to shortage of space. Therefore, Seiko was forced to clean up quickly as she went. There was a small storage space under the kitchen floor. A floor plan is attached.

While I was there, Seiko and I did errands. We visited the supermarket. It was multi-storied and divided not only into food floors but department store floors as well. One-stop shopping was the goal. Shopping carts were very small. Seiko said that she, like most people, shops frequently because there is limited food storage space in her home. Computers that talked were at the check-out area.

After shopping, we walked the dogs around the neighborhood. Nearby were a Shinto shrine and a Buddhist temple. Both were quiet, especially the Shinto shrine. There were two garden areas where one woman worked in mompei clothing. ("Mompei" are traditional work clothes worn by farm women. They consist of baggy pants with a blouse and apron.) Another section was under construction. Homes priced at 12 to 13 million yen were for sale. Also there were a small park/playground area and a couple of soba (noodle) shops. All of these places were in a two- to three-block area.

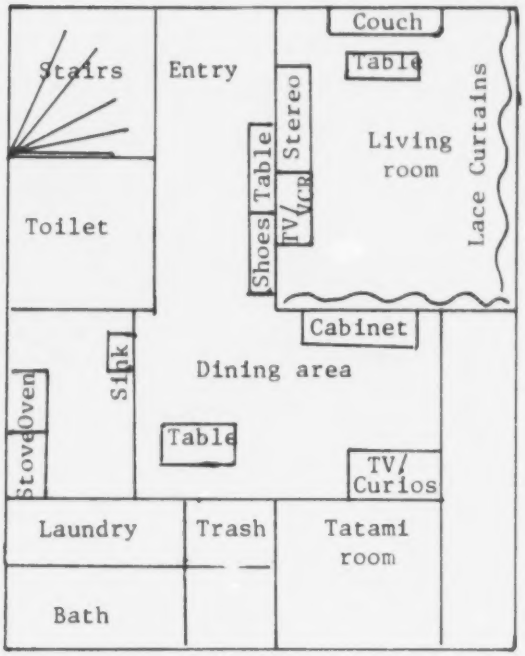
The rest of the day was spent trying on kimonos and preparing dinner. For dinner, Seiko made a breaded pork cutlet, stir-fried vegetables, and a large salad. We drank a small glass of sake and a glass of beer at the same time. For desert we had a delicious pineapple cake. Seiko, Akihiko, and I talked and laughed a great deal throughout dinner while their two dogs lay on the floor and occasionally begged for tidbits. It felt just like being at home!

After dinner, we cleaned up and watched TV and talked. We talked about a wide range of topics, including how we felt about being married for 20 years, pets, vacations, hobbies, things we liked and didn't like about our jobs, life without children of our own, relatives, etc. Such conversation was possible not only because we shared common interests and outlooks on life but also because both Seiko and Akihiko spoke English very well. Seiko's English was better than Akihiko's; from time to time, she would stop to translate or ask for another inter-

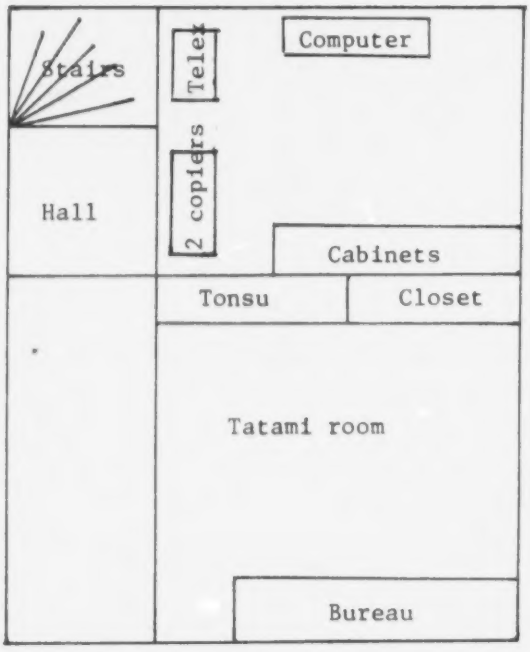
pretation so that Akihiko could fully understand. It was a very comfortable situation – so much so that I know I have found two "soul mates" who will grow to be friends despite the distance separates us. Akihiko and Seiko seemed to have a very easy relationship without any kind of power play that would not be found in my own family.

FLOOR PLAN

First Floor



Second Floor



Case Study #22

The Atoji family is a middle-class family living in the suburbs of Yokohama. There are three members currently in the family home. A fourth member, a 23-year-old son, lives in the U.S. and is married to an American woman. All members of the family speak English well.

Mr. Atoji, age 51, has a college degree and works in a trading company as a business manager. Although a trading company originally, the company has diversified and has many types of investments all over the world. Mr. Atoji has been transferred several times, and the family has lived abroad for over ten years—in Oregon, Sweden, and Australia. They can expect to live abroad once more before his retirement. Mr. Atoji would like to live in Southeast Asia, but his wife would prefer the U.S. or Europe.

Although Mr. Atoji owns a car, he commutes to work in Tokyo everyday by public transportation. He leaves for work by 7:00 a.m. and arrives home around 8:00 p.m. He never brings work home and does not work on Saturday. He is aware of the stress in his life and uses the weekend to relax by spending time with the family, gardening, doing chores around the house, and reading. His hobbies also include music and opera.

Mrs. Atoji, age 49, has a college degree and works as a pharmacist three days each week. Her family believed that a woman should have an education just in case—as insurance. Her marriage was an arranged one, and she has never had to work. Recently, she began working for the first time. She has the support of her husband, and her daughter actively encouraged her to work. However, friends and neighbors are critical. She uses much of the extra money she makes to visit her mother, who is ill and lives in another prefecture.

Mrs. Atoji does her own housework and most of the cooking, but her husband and daughter help. Living abroad changed both Mr. and Mrs. Atoji's ideas about the role of men and women in the home.

Her hobbies include watching television, reading, visiting with family and friends, and taking courses. One reason she likes to live abroad is that many courses are cheaper and more accessible. She likes to study foreign languages, exercise classes, and Bible courses.

Case Study by Francelle Grisham, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools.

Ayako, the daughter, is a 21-year-old student at Sophia University in Tokyo. In addition, she works part-time in several juku schools and a travel agency. She also spends three hours commuting to Tokyo each day. She is 5'6" and looks like a model. Her mother is critical of her sunbathing and says that she took up sunbathing when the family lived in Sweden.

Ayako attended Japanese schools only three years out of twelve. She could not qualify for several public colleges because her scores in Japanese were not high enough. She speaks English well, but not as well as when the family first returned to Japan from overseas. She would like to travel and live abroad again. Her mother says that she has a Swedish mind in a Japanese body.

The Atojis purchased their home more than 20 years ago, when the neighborhood had fewer houses. They say it is now worth 50 times more than when they purchased it. The lot, similar to a small American townhouse lot, has space in the backyard for a small lawn, flower gardens, a covered carport, uncovered patio, and storage area.

The house has a number of windows and sliding glass doors, which allow for cooling without an air conditioner. The upstairs windows are made of paper or glass, covered by screens, and then heavy shutters on the outside. The windows and sliding glass doors downstairs have drapes and curtains in the Western style.

Almost all of the house is furnished Western style—drapes, carpets, chairs, sofa, coffee table, end tables, lamps, etc. There are a number of books, a piano, and objects from all over the world. There are few Japanese art objects. However, a smaller bedroom upstairs is a traditional tatami room with a tokonoma, chest, and cupboard for bedding. Guests sleep on a futon. This room is the only traditional Japanese room in the house. The daughter's bedroom is Western and looks like an American teenager's bedroom, with a frilly bedspread on the four-poster bed, dolls, pennants, posters, telephone, computer, dresser, teddy bears, etc. I did not see the master bedroom.

The center of family life is the dining room, which has a Western raised dining room table, chairs, china cupboard, and television. The dining room is separated from the kitchen by a breakfast bar.

The kitchen is small and dark. Lighting is poor and the storage area is small. Along the only wall is a small range, sink, cupboards, and refrigerator. The laundry room and pantry are just off the kitchen. There is room only for a small washing machine. There is no dryer; clothes are hung on a line in the backyard.

There are bathrooms upstairs and downstairs. Upstairs, the bathroom has the sink in one part and the toilet separated from that part by a wall and door.

Downstairs, there is a large bathroom with sink, dressing table, toilet, bath/shower, and tile on the walls and floor. It looks like any American bathroom. The house does not have a Japanese bath. See attached floor plan.

The family has had to clean and repair the home each time they returned from abroad. Each time it became more Western. Renting their home would be the one problem the Atoji family would have with going abroad again.

Mrs. Atoji cooked most of the meals during my visit, but one lunch was ordered. The food was delivered; an hour later, the delivery person came again to collect the dishes.

For both dinners, the food was primarily Japanese and was served Japanese-style. One night sukiyaki was prepared at the table. Wine was served in Swedish crystal (with labels still on it). Fruit was served for dessert. All the dishes and flatware were beautiful and expensive. Mr. Atoji helped in the kitchen after dinner.

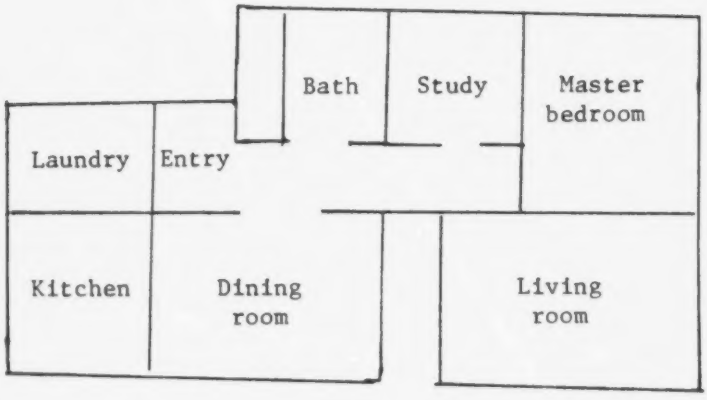
Breakfast was more casual; each person ate when they awoke at different times. The husband and daughter fixed their own breakfasts—fruit, bread, cheese, ham, and yogurt.

This family values family life, rearing and educating children, and having their own home. Although they criticize some things in Japanese life, especially education, they enjoy the benefits of living in Japan today and generally subscribe to the general values in this society. They are also keenly interested in and knowledgeable about international economics, cultures of other nations, and foreign languages.

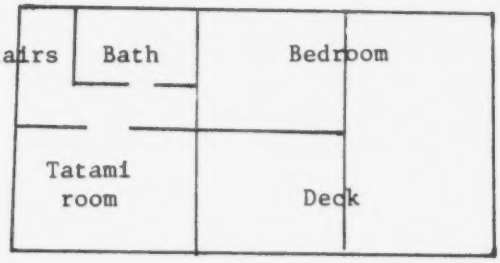
At middle age they want to be certain that their children are educated and established. They are also concerned about economic security in their old age. After these basic concerns are taken care of and since they own their own home, they wish to enjoy travel, culture, art, and some of the better things in life. Although they are able to acquire many things, they generally purchase quality rather than just quantity.

FLOOR PLAN OF ATOJI HOME

Downstairs



Upstairs



Case Study #23

The Takahashi family is a middle-class family living in the city of Yamagata in the northern part of Honshu. Yamagata has a population of 125,000 and is the capital of Yamagata Prefecture, an agricultural region. Mr. Takahashi speaks English. Although Mrs. Takahashi is studying English, she spoke it little during the visit. Although the daughter has studied English in school, she was not comfortable speaking it. The family has two cars and drives to work.

Mr. J. Takahashi, age 51, is a director of taxes in the prefectural government. He was born in Tokyo, but his family moved to Yamagata when he was seven years old. When he completed high school in Yamagata, he attended and graduated from Tokyo University. He loves Yamagata and feels that it is a better place to live than Tokyo. He wants his son to return here. He feels that there is too much stress and pressure in Tokyo.

Mr. Takahashi enjoys the traditional Japanese arts and crafts. He enjoys golf and plays as much as he can. He also studies English each week at a class provided by the prefecture. When he comes home from work, he likes to wear a yukata, the traditional cotton house robe. He often wears the yukata to his brother's coffee shop in the evening.

Mrs. Takahashi is in her late forties and works in an office in the receipts division of the prefectural government. She grew up in Yamagata prefecture. Mrs. Takahashi has always worked, even when her children were small. A grandmother lived in the house at that time. She does her own housework and cooking with little help from the other members of the family. She and a group of her friends in the office study English. With her children grown, she finds it less difficult to balance work and home and now has more time for leisure. She is interested in staying trim and physically fit.

Children: There are two grown children. The son is in his third year at Tokyo University and is seldom home. The family does visit him in Tokyo several times each year. The daughter, age 24, works for a bank and is not married. Her parents would like to see her marry in the next few years. However, they would like her to marry for love as they did.

Case Study by Francelle Grisham, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools.

Home/Furnishings: The family purchased their home more than 20 years ago. The neighborhood is relatively close to the center of the city, and the houses are close together; however, there are also some small plots of land where crops are being grown. The value of the property has increased but not like in the major cities. The home has a small front yard, with a flower and shrub garden, but no back or side yards. There is just barely space to park the two cars. The house does have a number of windows and sliding glass doors, which open onto the garden and provide for air circulation.

The house has two levels (see attached floor plan). Although some of the house is furnished Japanese-style, the bedrooms and kitchen are furnished Western-style. There are two rooms furnished with tatami mats downstairs, and a low dining room table is used in one of these rooms. Generally, these rooms have only built-in storage areas and only a few decorations or objects, like cushions.

The kitchen has a Western-style table with chairs. The kitchen is used for informal meals and also has a television. In the kitchen is a large built-in cupboard with glass for the storage of dishes. The cooking and cleaning area was not particularly clean. Cooking appliances include a small refrigerator with three compartments, a small stove, and an instant hot water heater over the sink.

All the bedrooms are upstairs. The children's rooms are furnished Western-style; I did not see the master bedroom. The bath is downstairs. In one room are the toilet and sink. Off the laundry room is a Japanese-style bath where a hand shower is taken before soaking in the tub.

Food: The first meal served was a lunch; attending were three friends of Mrs. Takahashi's from work. These friends are also studying English together. Cold soba, tempura, pickles, rice, fruit, and dessert were served in courses. Before lunch, we had a modified tea ceremony, where green tea was served.

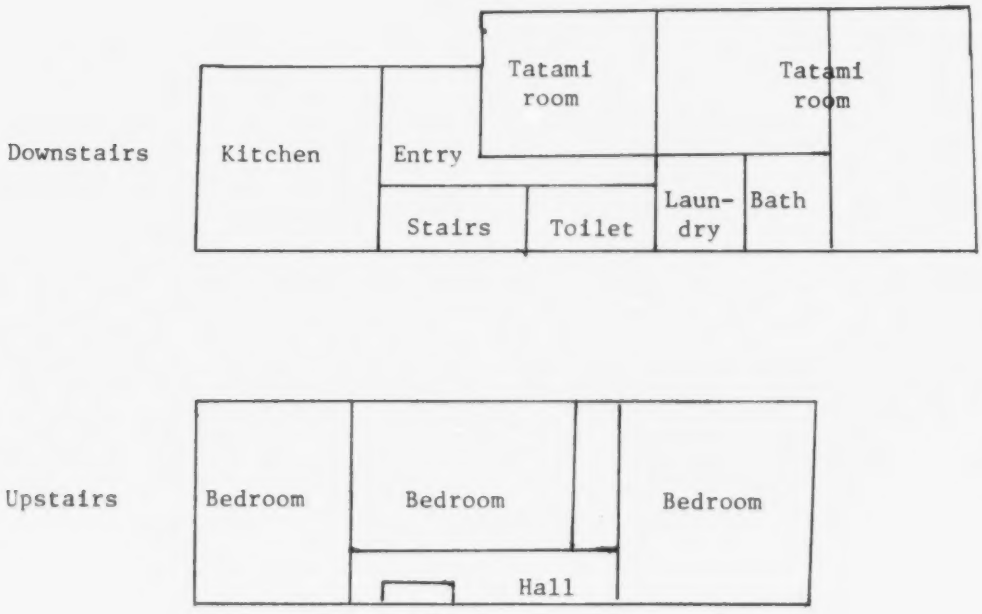
Dinner and breakfast were more casual and were served in the kitchen. Miso soup, rice, fish, pickles, and vegetables were served at both meals. Breakfast also included fried eggs and bacon. Mrs. Takahashi served and cleaned up after all meals. Mr. Takahashi did not help.

We also went for a drive in the nearby mountains. We stopped and picked yellow cherries. Later we stopped at a restaurant that specializes in konnyaku—an underground root with a gelatinous consistency. It was served in a variety of ways, including deep-fried and as a sweet cake. The taste must be one that people acquire.

After dinner, we went to a coffee shop owned by Mr. Takahashi's older brother. We were served an excellent strong coffee. While we sipped the coffee, we looked at the many folkcrafts sold in the shop.

Values: This family values family life, rearing and educating their children, and owning their own home. They have worked hard for their economic success. However, they also value a quieter, more traditional lifestyle in a less urban area. They also value self-improvement, studying English, Japanese traditional arts and culture, sports, and exercise. At middle age, they want to see their son educated and established. They want their daughter married in a few years. Then they want to provide economic security for their old age.

FLOOR PLAN OF TAKAHASHI HOME



Case Study #24

Tanaka family members

Father: early fifties, plant manager of Yokohama branch of NKK (a large steel manufacturer), enjoys golf, mah-jong, and stamp collecting.

Mother: housewife, belongs to an international women's club, attends English-speaking "chatter" class, enjoys tennis and plays often.

Daughter: 20 years old, attending second year at a private university, to study English in London for five weeks during August break, enjoys skiing.

Son: 21 years old, second year at private university, skipped classes for five weeks this spring to motorbike across Australia, enjoys motorcycles.

Son: 25 years old, engineer for Mazda Corporation in Hiroshima, no longer lives at home.

Father's mother: lives with the family in her own separate/connecting quarters, teaches calligraphy two to three evenings a week to children.

The Tanakas live in a two-story Western-style home they built 20 years ago. It has one Japanese-style tatami room with a tokonoma and a Buddhist altar commemorating Mr. Tanaka's father and sister. Last year, they built onto the home, adding Japanese-style separate quarters for Mr. Tanaka's mother and enlarging the master bedroom. The home has three bedrooms, W.C./sink area, and a patio for drying clothes on the second floor; a tatami room, formal living room, bath, toilet, kitchen, and dining/family room on the first floor. Sliding glass doors from all the living areas look out onto a lovely garden. The formal living room has shelves along one side; the shelves hold various treasures from around the world. They have one small dog. The Tanakas appear to be economically comfortable, although two or three times Mrs. Tanaka mentioned that expense prevented her from doing or buying certain things.

Mr. and Mrs. Tanaka's marriage was arranged by a mutual friend, although they dated for several months prior to marriage to determine their compatibility. Mr. Tanaka's role as breadwinner seems to fit the "salaryman" image. He leaves early in the morning and doesn't return until 9:00 p.m. When I visited, he didn't return until 10:15 p.m. one night; on Saturday he left early to play golf with his associates and didn't return until 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Tanaka does the household chores and

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Case Study by Kathryn Hoover, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools.

fixes breakfast and dinner for her husband each day. She fills her leisure hours with clubs, occasionally escorting English-speaking groups, and tennis.

She told me that her husband has had several opportunities to work in the United States (where she would love to live for awhile), but he has turned them all down due to his lack of fluency in English and his desire to remain in Japan. He does travel abroad; Mrs. Tanaka lamented that although many husbands take their wives, hers does not. (She has, however, met him in Brazil and Europe.)

The Tanakas' children have always attended private schools. The two youngest now attend a private university. Mrs. Tanaka laughingly admits to being an "education mama." The daughter is an excellent student interested in math. The son admits to being a mediocre student and seems to be leading the life of a playboy student—little work, skipping classes, and staying out late at night with his friends. He attended a cram school for two years before entering the university. Mrs. Tanaka said her children's interests were mixed up because the girl is interested in math and the boy in social sciences.

This seems to be a modern household with traditional touches intertwined. Mrs. Tanaka certainly expects her children to choose their own spouses. The material objects in the house, such as compact disc player, stereo, piano, and appliances, are up-to-date and plentiful. Mr. Tanaka's mother took fresh food to the Buddhist altar each morning for the souls of her husband and daughter. Mrs. Tanaka mentioned that the Buddhist priest was making his yearly visit the next week and that she had to stay home for the day to wait for him.

The Tanakas' daughter was being sent to London to study English in lieu of buying an elaborate kimono for the traditional 20th-year celebration (they did, however, intend to borrow one from a friend for the actual day of recognition). The daughter loves to shop and needed an extra clothes rack in her room for all her clothes. The parents and daughter sleep in Western-style beds, while the son and grandmother use futons.

Mrs. Tanaka seemed to have a loving, warm relationship with her son and daughter. There was teasing and comfortable banter back and forth. Mr. Tanaka was not around as much although the son and daughter seemed to tease their father a bit. There did seem to be somewhat of a strain and amusement at the same time by the son toward his father, which might be explained by the fact that the son told me, "My father is drunk." The daughter helped her mother clear dishes from the table but is not expected to help with dishes or housework.

Breakfasts were mostly Western-style with toast or rolls and eggs served followed by fruit. For dinner one evening, we ate sukiyaki, rice, and salad. Another evening we ate a chicken and cabbage main dish, miso soup, rice, salad, and

potato salad. Everyone in the family eats rice from his/her own rice bowl and selects his/her chopsticks from a glass container they are all kept in. Mrs. Tanaka said it was unusual for both her son and daughter to be home for dinner at the same time.

Case Study #25

Family members: Father, age 37, public servant for the prefecture mental health department, English fluency; Mother, age 35, housewife, actively involved in PTA, member of a music club, enjoys music and flowers; Son, age 10, public school, reads a lot, collects stickers; Daughter, age 9, private school, excellent student, takes piano lessons.

The Sato family lives in a new apartment building in the growing southeast section of Yamagata City, which is the capital city of a rural prefecture north of Tokyo. The apartment consists of three tatami rooms, a kitchen, toilet room, and bath. The rooms are simply decorated with little Western furniture. Each child has a study desk. In the kitchen are a Western table and chairs around which we sat most of the time. They have a piano and organ and a portable compact disc player (which was broken). The Satos' home is small but neat and clean. The family did not appear to be either affluent or poor but rather a hard-working middle-class family. They are natives of Yamagata Prefecture who lived in Tokyo until two years ago. They said in Tokyo all they could afford was a tiny two-room apartment. They were happy to move to Yamagata City, where their standard of living is much better. They dream of having a larger home of their own.

They do not have a lot of consumer items—appliances or such—in their home. They do not own a car. Mr. Sato (who once owned a car) said they are expensive and that biking is better for you. He is often asked by his children why they don't have a car, since all of their schoolmates have cars.

The Satos say that they fell in love after meeting at work. Mrs. Sato worked for Mr. Sato's father. As a public servant, Mr. Sato works long hours and does not feel that he can afford to take his one-week vacation. Mrs. Sato is a housewife and does all the domestic chores in the household. They seem to have an obvious affection for each other. When Mr. Sato went to London for a month last year, his first foreign experience, Mrs. Sato telephoned him daily to make sure he was OK and eating properly.

One child attends private school; the other public. Education seems to be important to the Satos, but they seemed not to agree with all the statements made to parents by their children's teachers. They asked my opinion about several issues and voiced their concerns about the normal Japanese way of doing some things. Their daughter seems to have quite a bit of homework; their son very little.

Case Study by Kathryn Hoover, Albuquerque (NM) Public Schools.

As mentioned, the Satos' home is mostly Japanese-style with a few Western touches. There are no religious artifacts in the home, but the Satos were married in a Buddhist ceremony and said they would probably have a Buddhist alter someday when a family member died. Mrs. Sato loves the tea ceremony and showed me her own equipment. She also loves to wear a kimono and showed me several pictures of herself wearing one, often in groups of women who were in Western dress. She said that she usually wears Western clothes, however.

The dinner served was a sushi meal of various raw fish, dry seaweed, salad, ham, rolled scrambled egg, cheese, alfalfa sprouts, geranium leaves, and a few other unidentifiable things. The sushi was put together by each person individually taking a square of seaweed, adding rice and whatever else desired on top, rolling it up, and dipping it in soy sauce. It seemed to be like a "sushi taco." Breakfast was miso soup with potatoes, salad, scrambled eggs with ham and bean, and tea.

Mr. Sato is usually not home to eat with his family during the week. Sunday is a family day when the family bikes around and stops at the public library. Each family member returns and checks out several books. The family also visits relatives in another part of the prefecture twice a year. The parents long to be able to travel and see the world.

Both parents seemed to have a casual and warm relationship with their children. The family unit appeared happy and comfortable together.

Case Study #26

I first met Akemi at a "get acquainted" party held for our group. We were both very nervous and relieved to find each other lots of fun. She lived farthest out of all the homestays, near Kamakura. She is married to Yoshi; they are both in their forties and have two boys, Yoshikazu and Morito, who are in grades 9 and 7. Both boys vanished at every opportunity, so I've no tales of them at all.

The family has lived in Geneva, Switzerland, and also in Montreal, Canada. Akemi has an incredible case of "itchy feet" and consented to an arranged marriage because Yoshi traveled often in business. They do not appear to be close but fulfill their duties with as much grace as needed.

Akemi is an "education mama," though a reluctant one. She doesn't work an outside job but works very hard spoiling her family. She says her husband is the baby of his family and his mother still treats him like one. However, she is very close to her mother-in-law, calls her every day, and runs errands for her. Yoshi told me he was very glad they were close because it is awful being in the middle if two women don't like each other.

Akemi gets up and spends 40 minutes cooking a gorgeous bento (box) lunch for the boys. She says she dislikes doing it immensely. She says it is hard work getting her husband ready for his frequent business trips, too. She works like a dog but appears to feel it necessary.

When the family lived in Europe, she was supposed to visit Spain for a few days. Instead, she disappeared for a month, "looked like a boy," stayed in youth hostels, and had a wonderful time. Yoshi was furious about it. She was very envious of my trip to Europe for a year. Yoshi travels all the time and hates it. Akemi can't go because it is business, yet she is dying to travel. She dislikes Yoshi's working such long hours and said he was "crazy" to do it.

Akemi had two miscarriages and prayed for the lost children at a Buddhist memorial for mothers with a huge statue of Kannon and thousands of little statues (jiso) representing babies. I think she was envious of my not having children by the way she spoke of the terrible responsibility. She likes the conveniences of a modern, more Western house. She seems restless but was very humorous and candid.

Yoshi was funny, too. He is a salaryman who stays out until 11 p.m. or later every night, working late, then drinking with the fellows. He hates being a tourist, yet he

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Case Study by Sally Purath, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District.

good-naturedly drove Akemi and me to see the giant Buddha and Kannon statues at Kamakura. Afterward he took me to have lunch with his mother. He is not allowed to smoke in the house, so he strolls in the garden when he smokes. He plays golf and belongs to a tennis club. He owns a golf membership his family bought 20 years ago for 350,000 yen; he also pays 7000 yen per 18 holes. His membership would cost 30 million yen now! If one can even get an invitation to play as a nonmember, it costs 25,000 yen for 18 holes. His father, a naval captain in WWII, died in 1965. Yoshi inherited some land from his dad and had his house built on it in 1977.

The house is an interesting mix of West and East. It has three bedrooms, a tatami-mat guest room, living room, kitchen, two toilet rooms, and one bathroom. The main toilet room has an electric toilet with a heated seat that turns on a fan when one sits on it. It has a total of eight functions; what they are is a mystery. The living room is filled with knickknacks from all over the world: Europe, Australia, Asia, North America. It also contains many traditional Japanese things: tiny kitchen, "good luck" and "protection" Shinto charms, paper-covered windows, traditional garden and bath. Yoshi Junior has a large room with private balcony. They also have a small dog chained up outside and three roosters – "because they are pretty."

Yoshi's mother was terrific – an independent fragile-looking lady who did as she pleased. She lives in a 70-year-old traditional house full of tatami mats, a family shrine, sliding outer walls, and beautiful garden. She lives alone and has a cleaning woman and a man who fixes things. She greeted me in a kimono, which was great – until Akemi told me Yoshi ordered her to wear it for me and she was complaining about it. She teaches calligraphy and gave me a pen and ink set and a sample of her work. She has money and travels overseas almost every year – to Asia, Europe, and America. Yoshi and Akemi lived with her when they returned from Europe, but the two little boys broke out her paper windows and generally acted their ages. So she ordered them all out. So Yoshi says he asked for the money to do so. He said she laughed and laughed at that – and gave them the money.

When Yoshi got home from work, he just sat and had a drink with me while Akemi did all the food preparation. Afterwards, we left so she could do all the cleanup. I was not allowed in the kitchen because it was very cluttered with a million dishes.

Both husband and wife perform very traditional roles; neither seems willing to change them. Both work very hard and seem quite indulgent of the boys. They appear to live the Japanese stereotype uncomfortably but successfully.

Case Study #27

My Yamagata homestay was with the family of Tsunehiro Goto. He had lived in the United States eight years ago, so he was excited to have me stay with him. We chatted for awhile at first about me, and he mentioned nothing about a family of any sort. I wondered if he were married. Only when I arrived did I discover he lived with his wife, two little boys, his parents, and his younger sister, who was 28. I found it curious that it didn't occur to him to mention any of them. And during my time with them, I didn't learn anyone else's name.

Their house is large. The two boys share a room next to the sister's room upstairs. The grandparents live in a tiny cottage in the yard. There is a large, cluttered kitchen. The toilet room has one Western (raised) toilet and one Japanese (floor) toilet, plus a urinal in the corner.

Being the eldest son, Tsunehiro has the family shrine in their guest/formal room, bedecked with photos of the deceased great-grandparents, whose faces also stared down from huge portraits near the ceiling. All the bedrooms, the family room containing table and TV, and formal areas have tatami-mat floors. In addition, there is one Western room with bookcases, a stuffed couch, and baby grand piano, used by the sister who teaches piano to kids. Outside are a garden and a carp pool, fenced to keep kids out.

Goto-san took me to see the local tourist sights – a huge temple complex up a mountainside and Mt. Zao, a famous Japanese ski area. With his eldest son, we visited a hot springs on Mt. Zao whose acid water would dissolve pearls. That evening we had a barbeque in the yard, and the kids shot off fireworks.

The family members are almost all teachers in some capacity. Tsunehiro and his wife teach, the grandfather is a retired teacher/principal and calligrapher. His sister teaches piano. The grandfather knew a few English words and showed me his pictures of a trip he made around the world including the USSR, Europe, and American.

Mrs. Goto speaks little English. She teaches elementary school all day, then does the housework with her mother-in-law. The men come home from work and sit watching TV or reading the paper. None of the women ever sat still while I was there. The younger sister indicated she resented her father at times because he could really throw his weight around.

Case Study by Sally Purath, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District.

Pooling the resources of three generations made this family very comfortable. The women appear to work very hard, but there were three of them to share the burden. The men seem very content at home, though Tsunehiro said he put in long hours at work.

Case Study #28

Mitzuko Miyagawa, 9-year-old Tomoko, and Jamu the Siamese cat live in a two-room apartment in Kyoto. I stayed three nights with them during Gion Festival. Mr. Miyagawa is a policeman and is separated from his wife. They are seriously considering divorce, and Mrs. Miyagawa wants to start a business. They have a fourth-floor apartment that consists of a bedroom and living room, both having carpet-covered tatami-mat floors, a small kitchen, toilet, and bathroom. Tomoko has the bedroom, and her mom sleeps in the living room. Everything is very modern, compact, and efficient.

Mrs. Miyagawa doted on Tomoko, who was very well-behaved. Mrs. Miyagawa obviously leaned very much on her good friends, who came over to drop off Tomoko's friends, pick them up, share rides, and just chat. She waited on me hand and foot, gave me Tomoko's room, took me around town in their car, and took me to the festival. She would not allow me to buy anything; she bought my subway and bus tickets, food, cokes, even souvenirs she thought I might like. She spoke very little English, so I didn't really get to know her at all; she was pretty, a little sad, and liked to wear mimiskirts and jeans—both of which looked good on her.

Tomoko has a small organ in her room which she played. She also is an accomplished flute player and artist. She also loves her cat, called Jamu, who loved to climb curtains to the top. At Gion Festival, Tomoko and her best friend dressed up in bright yukatas and sandals and walked the streets with us, looking at the floats.

When I left, they came to the station, bought tickets to enter the platform, and waved good-by at my train seat window. I felt very frustrated at my lack of communication with such generous people. I didn't get to know them very well.

Case Study by Sally Purath, Poudre R-1 (CO) School District.

Case Study #29

Yasuo and Manami Sato are a young couple living in Yamagata, a rural prefecture north of Tokyo. They have a young son, Yoichiro, who is two years old. Yoichiro is the apple of his parents' eyes and also of the grandparents. Both the maternal and paternal grandparents live in Yamagata. Manami and Yasuo are junior high school English teachers. They met when they both began teaching in Yamagata at the same junior high school. Since they have been married, they have each taught at schools at opposite ends of the city.

Manami is an only child. Manami says that when she was young, her mother always warned her that, as an adult, she would need to be more than a housewife and so to prepare herself for a profession. Her parents gave their permission for her to go to Tokyo to college only if she agreed to come back to Yamagata and be a teacher. Manami said she is happy being a teacher, but she really wanted to stay in Tokyo and be an office lady.

To make it possible for both Yasuo and Manami to work, Manami's mother takes care of Yoichiro. She also helps Manami with her household duties by doing the laundry and some of the daily shopping. Sometimes she also prepares the evening meals. Neither Yasuo nor Manami finish with their duties at school until 7:30 or 8:00 in the evening, since they both coach a club after school.

Yasuo and Manami rent a small apartment conveniently located between Yasuo's parents' liquor store and home and Manami's parents' home. Their home is also half way between their schools. Since both need to drive to work, the family owns two cars. Yasuo and Manami would like to have a larger place, but they cannot afford different housing at this time.

Because of the smallness of Yasuo and Manami's apartment, we all spent the night at Manami's parents' house during my homestay. Their house was traditional in many respects. The four main rooms all had tatami-mat floors and were devoid of Western-style furniture. One room was filled with Manami's father's video equipment. He had five video cameras and an editing system that allowed him to add sound to his home videos. That evening he edited some film that he had taken of Yoichiro earlier when we were out sightseeing.

Case Study by June Johnson, Crook County (WY) School District #1.

One of the four rooms had the regular TV and Yoichiro's toys. This room also had a low lacquer table in the center of the room and was used as the dining room. The other tatami room had a tokonoma – a traditional Japanese "corner" with a flower arrangement and painting. That room was prepared for me for sleeping that evening. The last tatami room was the parents' bedroom. A fifth room, the kitchen, was small and efficient without any extravagance.

While I spent the day with the Sato family in Yamagata, we toured a Zen Buddhist temple and traveled to the top of Mt. Zao, the local ski resort. While we were walking around, Yasuo was the primary caretaker of Yoichiro. He carried him, led him by the hand, helped him explore, picked him up when he fell down the hill, and cleaned off his scratched face. While we were eating lunch at a noodle restaurant, Yasuo took Yoichiro out to the garden when he became restless. When it was bath time, Yasuo and Yoichiro bathed together. But, when Yoichiro's diaper needed changing, when he needed his clothes changed, or when it was time to be put to bed, Manami or her mother did these chores. Later that evening as we all watched TV, Manami's parents teased that Yasuo and Yoichiro were glued to the program without any notice of what was going on around them.

Before Yasuo and Manami had their son, they liked to spend their evenings and free time playing pachinko, a kind of pinball game that is played for prizes. Pachinko parlors reminded me of Las Vegas, with bright lights, lots of noise, and people spending money. When the Satos first started playing, they would win, but there were times they spent more than they won.

My stay with the Sato family ended the next morning, with Manami taking me to rejoin my group of American teachers. She had special permission to be late for school in order to accompany me to the meeting spot. Yamagata is a wonderful city to visit.

Case Study #30

I first met my homestay hostess at 4:00 on July 1 in the lobby of our hotel. Emi Nakatsuka was much more anxious than I. Our mouths ran the entire way to the train station. Emi purchased tickets to Ninomiya (about 40 km. from Yokohama) and we boarded the train. About half way, Emi announced that we were on the wrong train, that we were headed for Tokyo. We disembarked only to discover that she hadn't made an error. After catching the next train, she began expressing some concerns about her husband. He smokes heavily, he works many long hours, and I might not see him much, and he likes alcohol too much. Finally, her anxiety was shown as she drove from the station. She had prepared me that she didn't drive too well, but I really expected her to be able to change gears! Anyhow, as we turned the last corner the the Nakatsuka house, Emi saw her husband's car. He was home early!

Next, let's meet the Nakatsuka family – all four members – and learn some about each of them.

Atsuo Nakatsuka, in his early 50s, is the father. He works for a rubber company, which manufactures Bridgestone tires, among other things. He is in charge of the portion of his company that manufactures electrical switch components – like the one on his video camera. He works long days, usually leaving for the office early enough to arrive at 7:00 a.m., one hour earlier than his scheduled workday is to begin. The day seldom ends before 7-8:00 p.m. Atsuo plays down his long days, however, and told me that he has an 8-5 job. He likes to play tennis – but really doesn't get much chance to do so as there is no time; smokes a great deal – although he never smoked around me; and drinks a lot. After and during our first meal, he consumed beer, sake, wine, and whiskey – as did his friend who had been invited to dinner. He talked about his mother, brothers, and family outings. In addition to his full schedule, he teaches math for a juku (cram school) one night each week. I felt very honored that Atsuo had come home early on Friday and, although he was scheduled to work all day Saturday, he came home and spent the afternoon taking me to a temple and a shrine. The few minutes each evening when he said, "I will teach you now," are engraved into my memory.

Nobuo is the eleventh-grade son. He spent a month on a homestay in Logan, Utah, last summer and speaks English quite well. He generally leaves for school

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Case Study by Marc McClanahan, Crook County (WY) Schools.

by 7:30 a.m. and, because he is on the swim team, seldom returns home until between 7 and 7:30 p.m. In the winter he must practice at a private swim club as his school has only an outdoor pool. His parents join the swim club for him, at some expense, so he can improve and compete. On Saturday, Nobuo had a difficult English exam followed by a swim meet and did not return until after 8 p.m. Nobuo attends a good high school and often comes home tired, wanting to sleep rather than study. But his mother reported that he must study more and more. She describes herself as an "education mama," and helps and encourages him with his studies. Nobuo had some spirited discussions with his parents over issues such as a driver's license, how long we should watch a video of family events, and whether he should be allowed to have some brandy.

The daughter, Akiko, is in her first year of high school. On the advice of her junior-high teachers, she is enrolled in a less academic high school than Nobuo—a fact she is not allowed to forget. She leaves for school around 8 a.m. and usually returns after tennis at about 7-7:30 p.m. In addition to tennis, she plays the piano—but seldom has time to practice—and spends many hours studying. When the other members of the family decided to drive me to Yokohama, Akiko excused herself, saying she had to study. She is a very pleasant, polite young lady. Though not very sure of her English, she tries very hard and hopes to have an American homestay next summer. She was a pure delight and is obviously her father's pride and joy.

Emi is a dynamo. She is a former English teacher who now teaches English at a juku two times each week at two different schools. She had her students over for a party Saturday afternoon so I could meet them and so that they could speak to a foreigner. Emi wants to impress. Having me as her guest was very important. She worked to set things up so if there was a problem, she would be absolved. But, she had guests for dinner on Friday, had made arrangements for me to learn the tea ceremony Saturday morning, took a friend and me to a golf club for Saturday lunch, arranged a Saturday afternoon party for me and her students, and was in every way a perfect hostess. Emi has been to America and Hong Kong. One indication of her wish to impress was her insistence that I take a shower the American way—which was quite difficult given their Japanese equipment.

The Nakatsuka family usually spends holidays together—either at a family reunion or locally going on picnics. There seems to be little time or energy for anything else. Sex roles seem fairly traditional, with one exception. Emi is first to rise so that she can prepare breakfast and bento lunches for her son and daughter and last to bed each night. However, she sleeps late on Sunday while her husband prepares a Western breakfast for the family. Nobuo also enjoys cooking.

The Nakatsuka family is not wealthy, but is comfortable. Their home is in a neighborhood where the houses are all about six years old. The bottom floor consists of three large rooms. The kitchen – six tatami mats in size – has relatively modern features; the dining area, with both Western and Japanese furniture, is ten tatami mats in size. Neither of these rooms actually have tatami mats on the floor. The eight-tatami-mat room – which really has tatami mats on the floor – serves as the guest room. It has a TV and stereo. It somewhat had the appearance of an American family room with tatami mats added. In addition, the house featured a narrow hallway that runs the length of the first floor, the toilet room, a room with a lavatory and washer, and a bathtub room. Emi told me there were three rooms upstairs, two six-tatami-mat rooms and one eight-tatami-mat room. She did not show me the upper floor. The house is furnished with a variety of furnishings, which Emi insisted were cheap. Some obviously were not, like the piano. The family's most prized possession is a scroll that hangs in the downstairs tatami-mat room. Atsuo's mother had visited 33 temples to get their signs on the scroll and gave it to the son and his family as a housewarming present.

Atsuo told me they purchased their house six years ago. It is now worth double what they paid, over $240,000. They "rented" part of the money from the government with a 30-year loan, which he reported is very expensive. By comparison, Atsuo told me that his mother's home in Tokyo is worth over $3 million.

The food was fantastic. Some dishes were typically Japanese, while others were Emi's version of American dishes – such as beef stew with cream. Emi glowed when I told her she made the best cup of coffee in Japan. The children said she never fed them so well. Videos of family gahterings that we watched indicated that they ate well whenever there was an important event.

During my stay, I helped prepare for the Tanabata Festival on July 7 by decorating a bamboo branch; participated in a tea ceremony; and learned that the family celebrates Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, and visits the grandfather's grave once each year. Birthdays are celebrated with typical birthday cake. I saw a family video of the father eating his with chopsticks. All of the family laughed and indicated he had drunk too much. In this case, as in others, the family was open and warm – sharing family anecdotes, opinions, wanting me to know them and their friends.

On Saturday afternoon, as the children from the juku and I decorated the Tanabata festival branch at the party Emi held, the youngsters shared their wishes with me. (Traditionally, at Tanabata, children make wishes for their future and hang them on the bamboo branches.) It also gave us a more meaningful way to practice English. One young man wished to become an average man. That was the only real culture shock I experienced. I found the Nakatsukas and their friends to

be richly individual and unique. In this land of contrasts, I wish the young man to become both average and unique – just like us all.

Case Study #31

The Fukuda family of Yokohama consists of wife, Chieko; her husband, Katsuo; their 12-year-old daughter, Emiko; and their 10-year old son, Yosuke.

The Fukuda family starts their day at 5:30 a.m., when Chieko gets up and begins preparing breakfast for Katsuo. She then takes him to the train station by 6:30 a.m. Katsuo commutes about 40 minutes to Tokyo, where he works as a section manager at one of the banks.

When Chieko returns from the train station, she gets daughter Emiko ready for junior high school. Emiko walks to school, which is only three blocks away, leaving by 7:30 a.m. Yosuke gets ready for school while his sister Emiko is eating breakfast. He joins the other elementary students on his street to walk to school by 8:30 a.m. Chieko explained to me that when the elementary students walk down the street, they have to be wearing their yellow caps. The oldest student in their group walks in the front, and the second oldest walks at the end of the group. The group for each neighborhood does not leave their meeting place until all the members are present, even if a younger child is a little pokey sometimes.

After the family leaves for their daily routines, Chieko usually spends the next few hours cleaning up the house, doing the breakfast dishes, and doing the daily laundry. When these chores are completed, Chieko does the shopping for the evening meal and the next day's breakfast and lunches. The rest of the day Chieko spends either taking English lessons or practicing her hobby, which is wood carving. She is an excellent craftsperson and displays many of her carved pieces around the home.

The Fukudas' home is a single-family structure. The only yard they have is a small plot (approximately 20' x 8') on the front side of the house. They have landscaped this with many tall bushes and flowers, so that you cannot see through them to the street. Their sliding glass doors from the living room lead out to the yard area. Their living room is decorated like our traditional Western-style living room, with a sectional couch, coffee table, TV, piano, telephone stand, and a desk.

The kitchen is off the living room. Chieko has many small appliances around the kitchen, including a traditional rice cooker, a microwave/convection oven, an electric coffee maker with coffee grinder, a butane-gas hot plate for the table, and an electric dishdryer. Their stove only has two burners and a small broiler just

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Case Study by June Johnson, Crook County (WY) School District #1.

under the two burners. There is a large shelf above the sink, where Chieko keeps the cooking utensils she commonly uses. The dishes are stored in a hutch at the opposite end of the kitchen. One side of the hutch holds the traditional Japanese dishes, and the other side keeps the dishes for the Western-style foods Chieko often likes to prepare. The family has a Western-style (raised) table and chairs for dining in the kitchen.

The first floor of the house also has a traditional Japanese room with tatami-mat floor, a low lacquer table for use while sitting on the floor, and a closet for storing the futon—feather ticking mattresses used for sleeping. This room also has a tokonoma—a traditional Japanese alcove where a scroll painting and flower arrangement are displayed. The first-floor bathroom consists of three small rooms. One of these rooms only has the toilet. The toilet seat is electric with a temperature control so you can regulate the warmth of the seat. The other two rooms in the bathroom are connected. One has the wash basin and medicine closet, as well as the washer and dryer. Directly off this room is the bathing room, which consists of a place to wash and rinse off and the traditional Japanese deep, short tub. The Fukuda family enjoys soaking in a traditional Japanese bath to ease away the troubles of the day.

The upstairs of the Fukuda house consists of the bedrooms and one small toilet room. The children, Emiko and Yosuke, each have their own room. Each has a Western-style single bed, on which they place a futon. Emiko has most of the walls covered with bookshelves filled with paperbacks and comic books. Yosuke has sports equipment and other games about his room. Chieko and Katsuo have a traditional Japanese room with a tatami-mat floor, large bureaus, and a closet for storing the futons.

After school, Emiko participates in volleyball club, and Yosuke has baseball club. After Emiko gets home from her after-school club, she changes clothes and then goes to her after-school study group (juku). She gets home from juku about 7:30 p.m., at which time she studies, watches TV, or plays Entendo with Yosuke until dinner is ready. The children also have a pet white rabbit, which lives in a cage in the living room. They often take it out of the cage and play with it in the living-room area.

Chieko prepares dinner for her and the children, which they usually eat around 8:00 p.m. Katsuo arrives home anywhere between 10:00 p.m. and midnight, at which time Chieko goes to the train station to pick him up. Chieko saves his supper, and he sits down to eat it while they talk. (He eats dinner without warming it up.) The children bathe and go to bed around 10:00.

Sunday is the only "day off." Katsuo does not go to work, but he does go to the train station at 5:30 a.m. He stands in line until the ticket counter opens at 7:00. Then he buys a reserved seat to go to Tokyo each morning of the coming week. There are only 50 of these seats available.

Case Study #32

The Onishi family consists of a husband, Noshiaki; a wife, Chiyoka; an 18-year-old daughter, Naomi; and a 15-year-old son, Takeo.

Noshiaki, 50 years old, is a TV news editor. He works long hours and usually gets home around 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and usually works a half day on Saturday. His hobby is antique radio collecting. Most of his collection is in mint condition. He has an original Victrola phonograph with the gramophone and plays old 33 1/3 heavy records.

Naomi, the daughter, is a student at a junior college. When asked of her future plans, she says she is going to get married and be a housewife. She was the family member who spoke the least English. She was usually on the phone with friends or in her room with the door closed.

The son, Takeo, is a second-year high school student. He works as a bus boy at the Royal Host, a western-style semi-fast food restaurant. He has been working there less than three months. The mother doted on the son and encouraged him to speak and learn English. Chiyoka spent a great deal of time building him up, encouraging him, and making him feel he could succeed at anything. Takeo has his own camera, a very good one, and is the family photographer.

There are nine rooms in the home. There are three bedrooms and a 1/2 bath upstairs. On the main level is a large living area with lots of TV, radio, and stereo equipment, a traditional Japanese room; kitchen; and laundry/bath area. Also they have a greenhouse/work area attached to the house. This room is primarily used by Chiyoka, the mother, for her handicraft work. The home is on the side of a hill and the garage area is tucked under the house.

We had little contact with the neighbors, but from observation it was a well-kept, attractive neighborhood. Most homes had one or two garages. Around the homes there were lots of flowers, gardens, and walkways. We did stop at the grandmothers home (Chiyoka's mother) to pick up some cherry's. Cherry's are expensive and it was a special treat for our evening meal since I was a foreign guest in the home.

The first night of the homestay, we had a traditional Japanese meal. Since this was a special event we waited till the father got home from work before we ate. In the meantime we talked and watched TV. The family had a TV in almost every

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Case Study by Judy Michalski, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

room. My luggage was placed in the parent's room, which was a traditional Japanese bedroom (see floor plan).

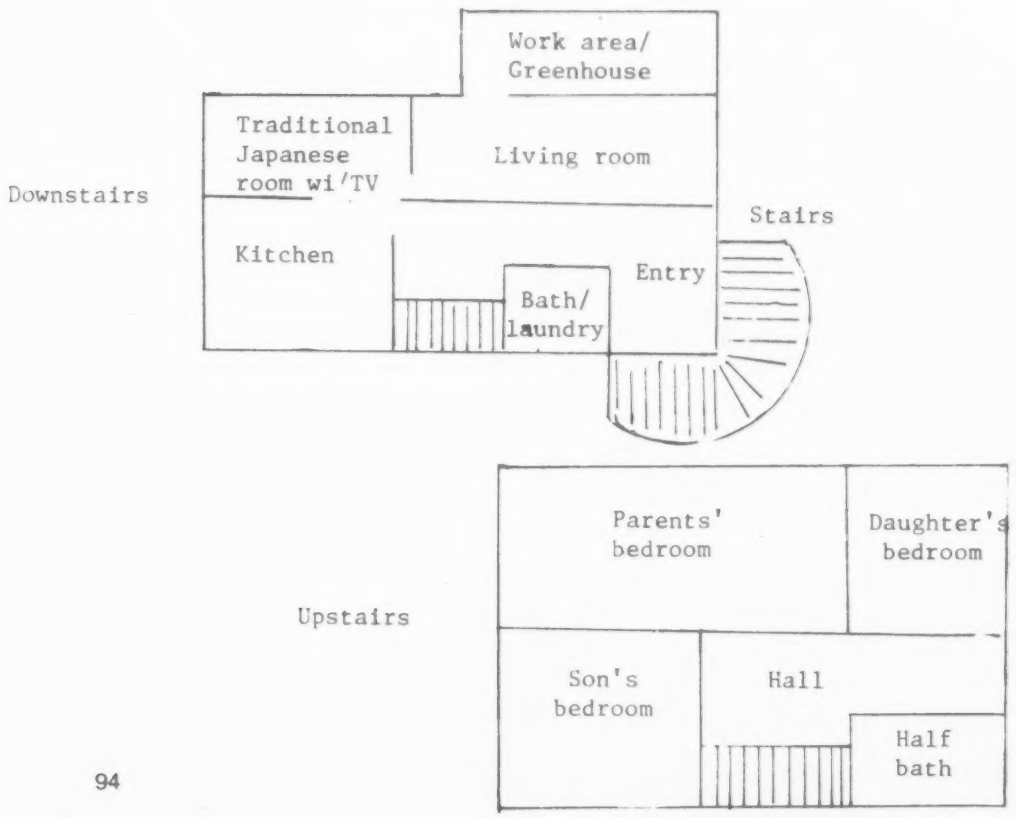
When Noshiaki arrived home about 9:00 p.m. we had supper. The traditional Japanese meal consisted of miso soup, fish, rice, tea, and vegetables.

After dinner, we went to the living room to examine Noshiaki's old radio collection. After explaining about all the equipment he put on an old Patti Page record. I listened to "Changing Partners," "Tennessee Waltz," "Doggie in the Window," and so on. They then brought out about ten compact discs of the pop songs of the 1950s and 1960s. After taking pictures of the group we all got off to bed around midnight.

The next day Chiyoka, Noshiaki, and I took off for the beach. We had a wonderful spaghetti and mussel lunch on the wharf and then went to Marineland. In the evening we had sushi and continued to talk. Most of our conversations centered around what we did differently in Japan and the United States.

Chiyoka was very concerned that her husband and I got along. She wanted everything to be perfect. She was so pleased that on Sunday he offered to drive us to the train station. She did not expect him to offer and was so pleased with his politeness and helpfulness during my stay.

FLOOR PLAN OF ONISHI HOUSE



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Case Study #33

The Hara family includes the father, Shuzo, age 50; Mrs. Tomoko Hara, 45; and a daughter, Yoko, 17.

Shuzo Hara is Director of the Teacher Consultant Section of the prefectural board of education. He spoke English, but not well, so there were lots of pauses in our conversation.

Tomoko Hara is a quiet woman who is very supportive of her husband. While I was at their home, her role was to prepare the food, to make everyone comfortable, and to tend the home and family. At times she seemed almost non-existent, except the work got done.

Yoko, the only child, is a senior in high school. She speaks English well and is very concerned about correct pronunciation. She had a cold and did not participate in many of the activities of the day during my stay.

After I met the Hara family at 10:00 a.m. we went to their home. The Hara's live in a close-in suburb of a rural prefectural capital city. The home consists of two bedrooms, a living area, kitchen, and bath/laundry area. The living area has tatami-map floors. It features a low table that includes a heating element (used in the winter with a blanket over the table). The home is modest and simple. Mr. Hara receives about average wages and the home reflects "middle class" in Japan. Other homes in the neighborhod were similar. I did not meet any close neighbors during my brief stay.

As soon as we arrived home, Mrs. Hara served tea and cakes. I presented them with gifts, Colorado souvenirs, which they opened immediately. We then took a car tour and ended up on a hill overlooking the city park. The park featured a large, human chess board. Each year the city has a human chess match. Dug into the hillside are permanent stone bleachers that are used to view the match. At the top of the hill is a huge granite chess piece labeled "king" in Japanese. The Haras told me with excitement about the importance of chess in their city. The town boasts a craftsman who makes beautiful chess pieces of wood. He is the current generation of a long chess piece-making tradition. Even streets in the town are named after chess pieces – for example, Knight, King, Pawn Streets, and so on.

Case Study by Judy Michalski, Durango (CO) School District 9-R.

We then drove to the place of Shuzo's birth. His mother, elder sister, and brother still live on the family farm. It has about ten acres, on which vegetables, rice, and lots of fruit trees are grown. The family is very proud of their crops and they all work together to make the farm successful. We talked and eventually walked around to view the crops. They had pepper and tomato plants, potatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, and lots of cherry trees. We gathered a bunch of vegetables.

We then had a tea ceremony after I was dressed in the daughter's kimono. It was fun being wrapped in the obi. Afterwards, we went outside to take pictures. The conversations were all translated through the daughter Yoko.

The evening's activities were well-planned and fun. My family knew the home-stay family of another American teacher in our group so they planned an evening together. We met the other family at a local hotel. The first event was a public bath. The facilities were excellent, almost to the point of being luxurious. After an hour in the bath room (women-only area) we were asked to sit in the massage chairs, which were wonderful and relaxing. After being totally clean and relaxed we went upstairs for a large wonderful Japanese meal. The meal was picture perfect. It contained at least 21 different items – each on their own plate. The rice was covered and hot, as was the soup. There was several different types of sushi – raw fish, shrimp, tuna wrapped in rice, and seaweed. The other dishes were various cooked vegetables, a whole small fish and bean cakes.

We had sake, cherry wine, and beer. We sang songs in English and Japanese, the children danced and a good time was had by all.